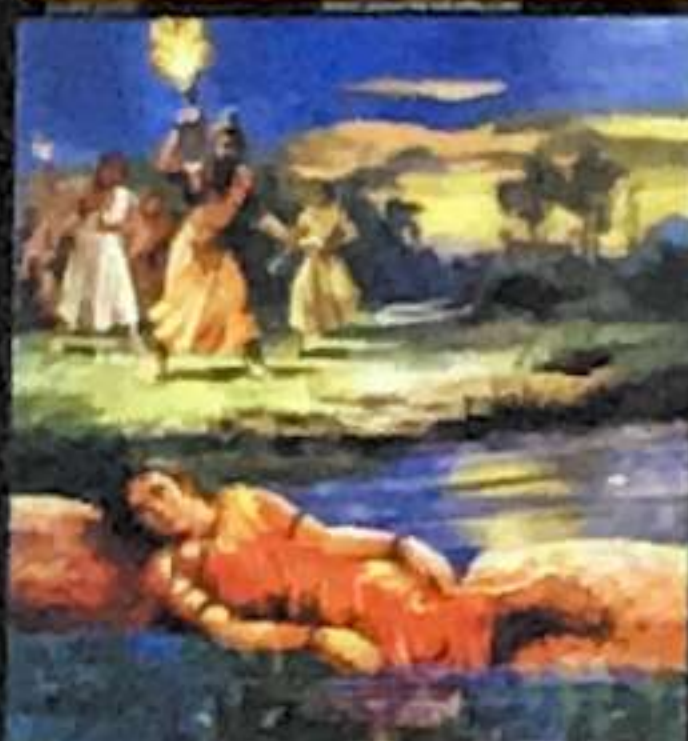


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Only Sati could fulfill Shiva's exacting demands. As his companion she could match his ascetic ways as well as be a loving wife. Unfortunately, her happiness was overshadowed by an arrogant father. Sati countered Daksha's insensitivity with an immense, horrific sacrifice, which threw the universe into chaos and turmoil. As the heroine of this primeval romantic story she embodies the essence of a perfect spouse.

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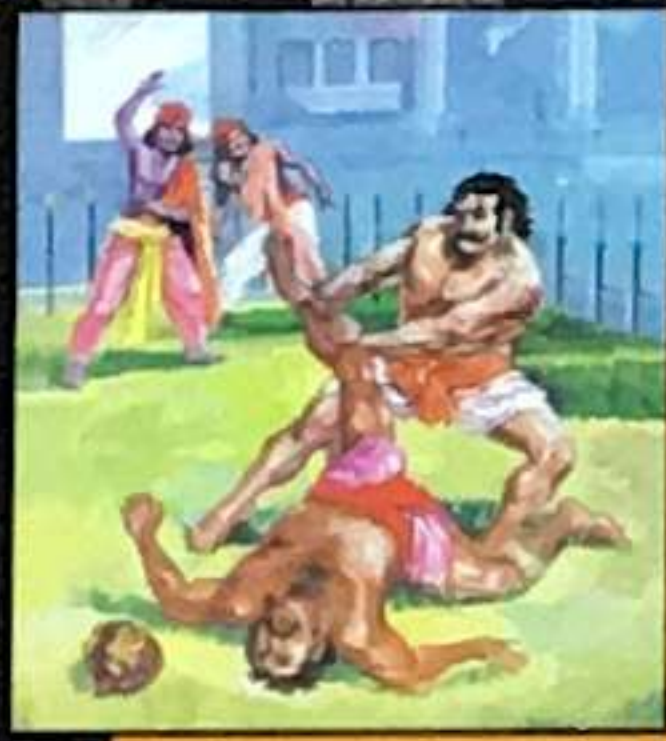
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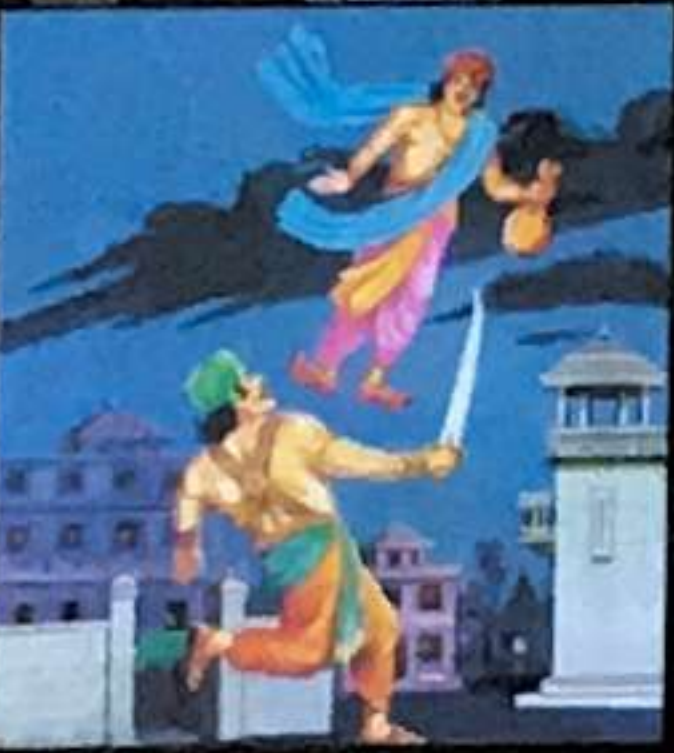
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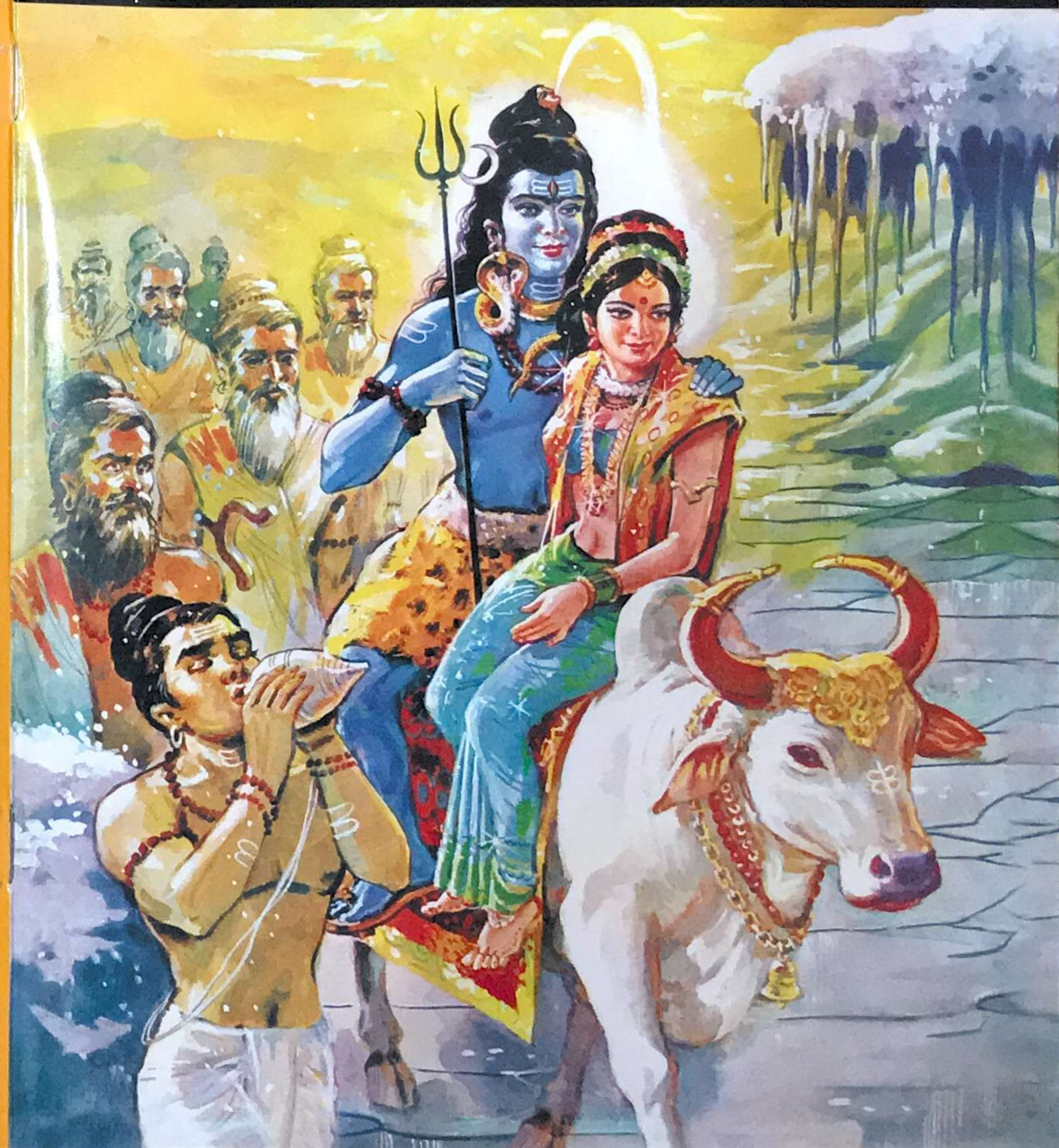
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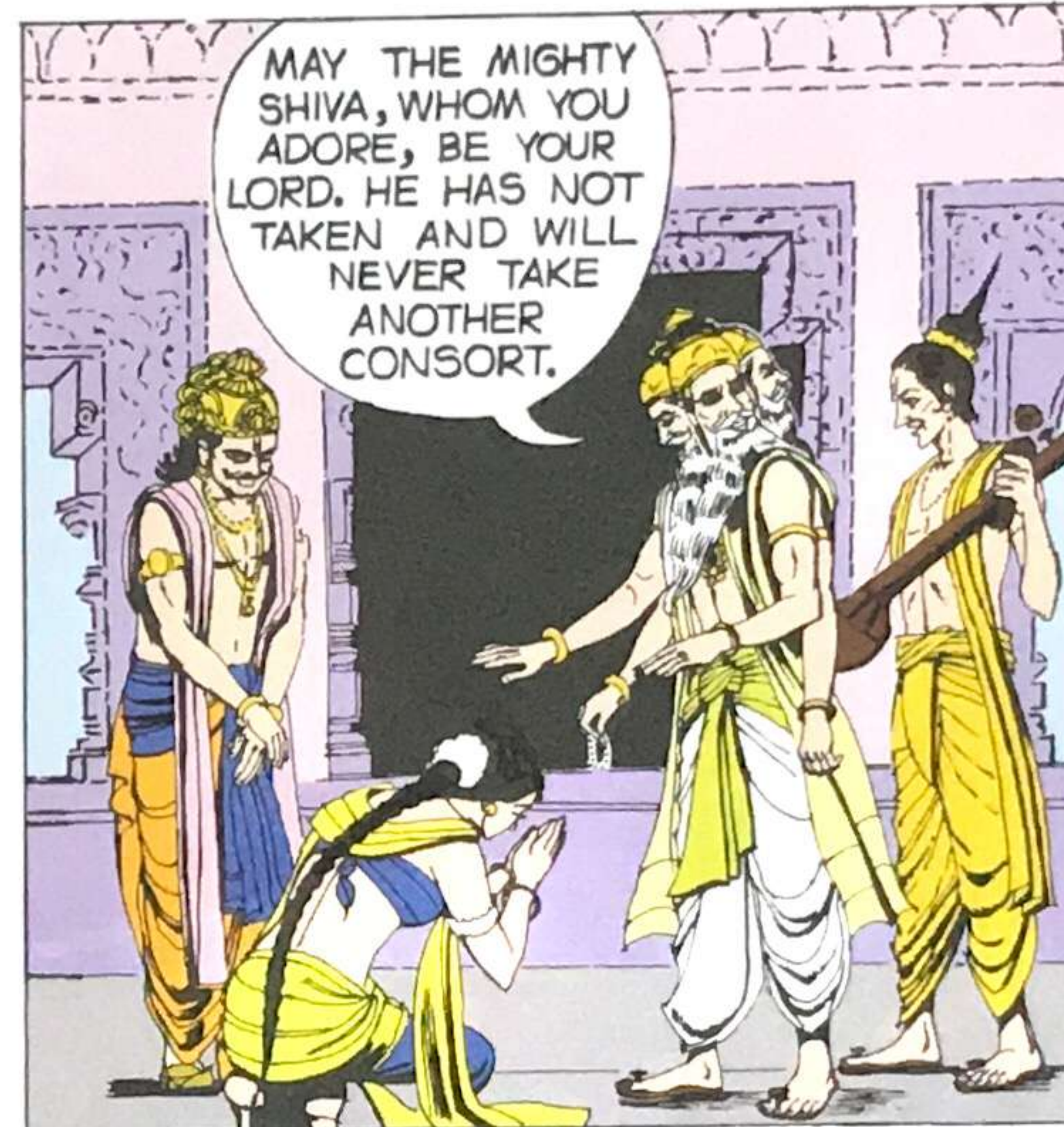


BRAHMA WANTED THE ASCETIC SHIVA TO GET MARRIED. VISHNU ADVISED HIM TO SERVE THE GODDESS UMA, BEG HER TO TAKE BIRTH ON EARTH, AND BECOME SHIVA'S CONSORT.

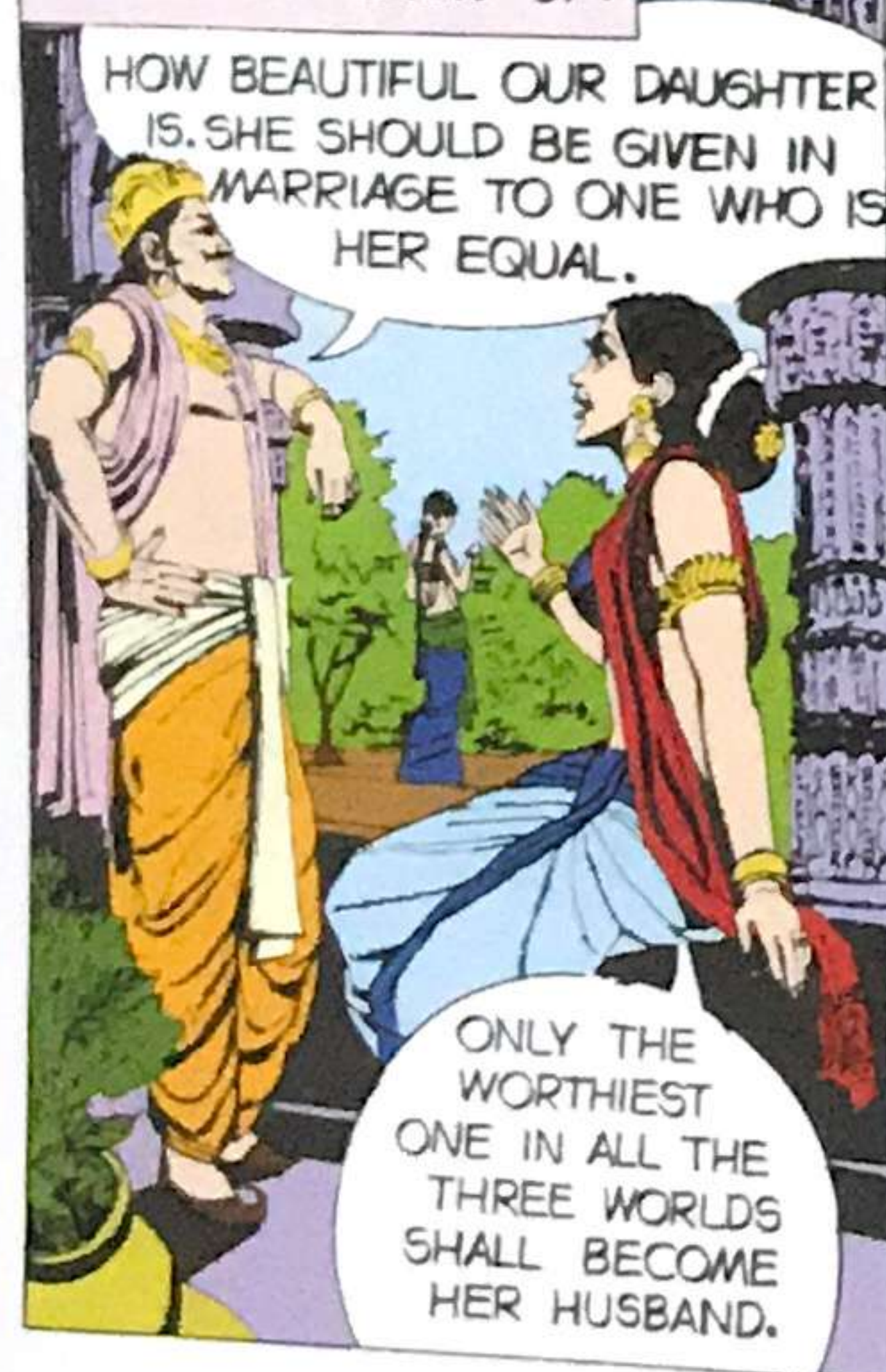
BRAHMA DID AS HE WAS ADVISED AND UMA WAS BORN TO HIS SON—THE CHIEF PRAJAPATI, DAKSHA.



EVEN AS A YOUNG GIRL, SATI WAS A STAUNCH DEVOTEE OF SHIVA.



SATI SOON GREW UP.



A FEW DAYS LATER, BRAHMA AND THE SAGE NARADA CAME TO VISIT DAKSHA.



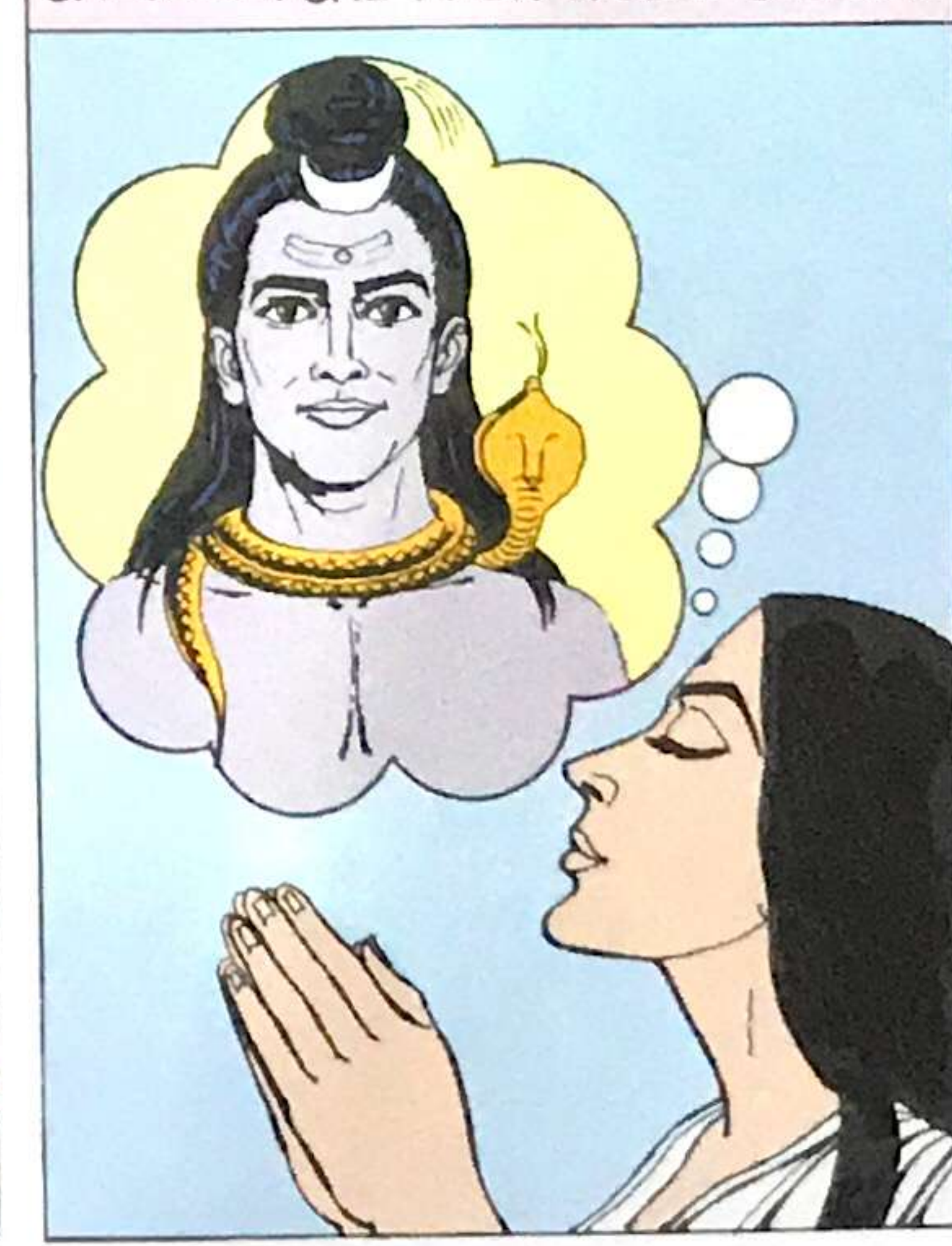
SHE BEGAN BY FASTING AND CHANTING SACRED MANTRAS.

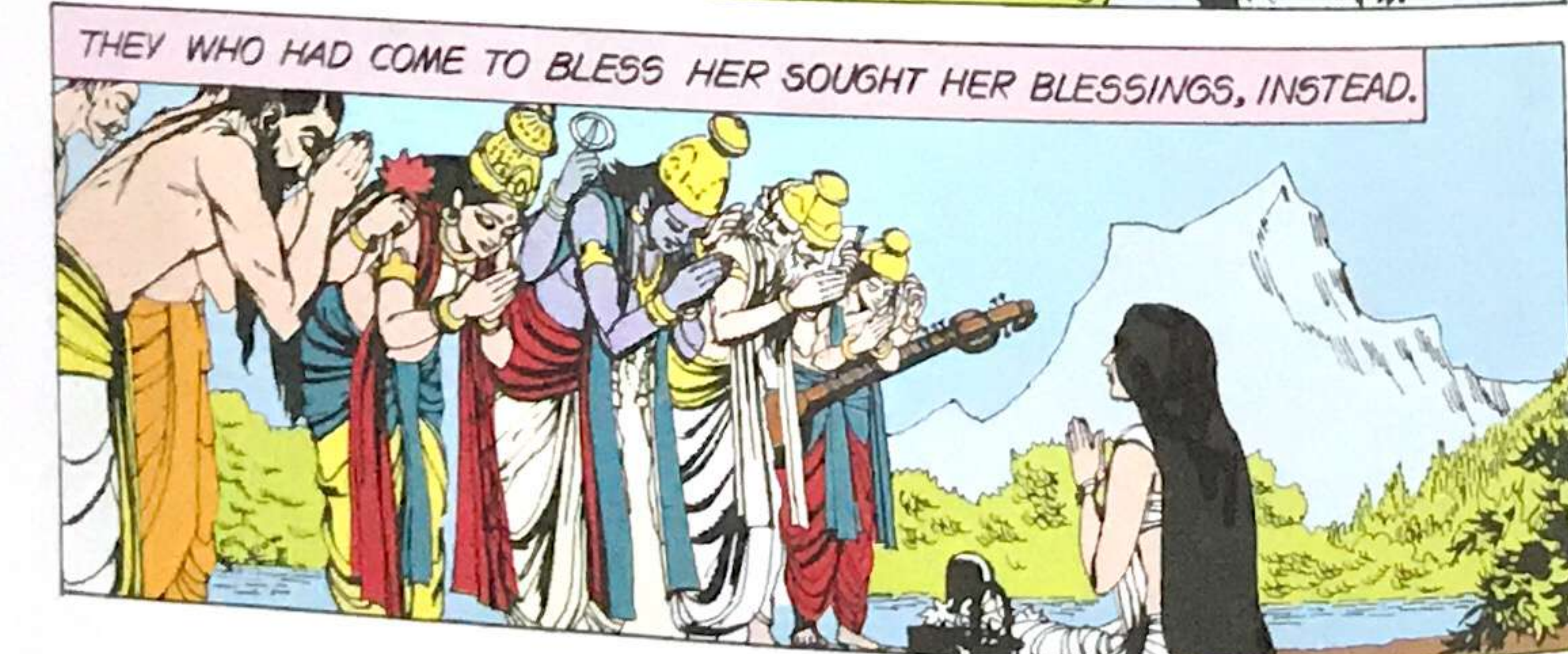
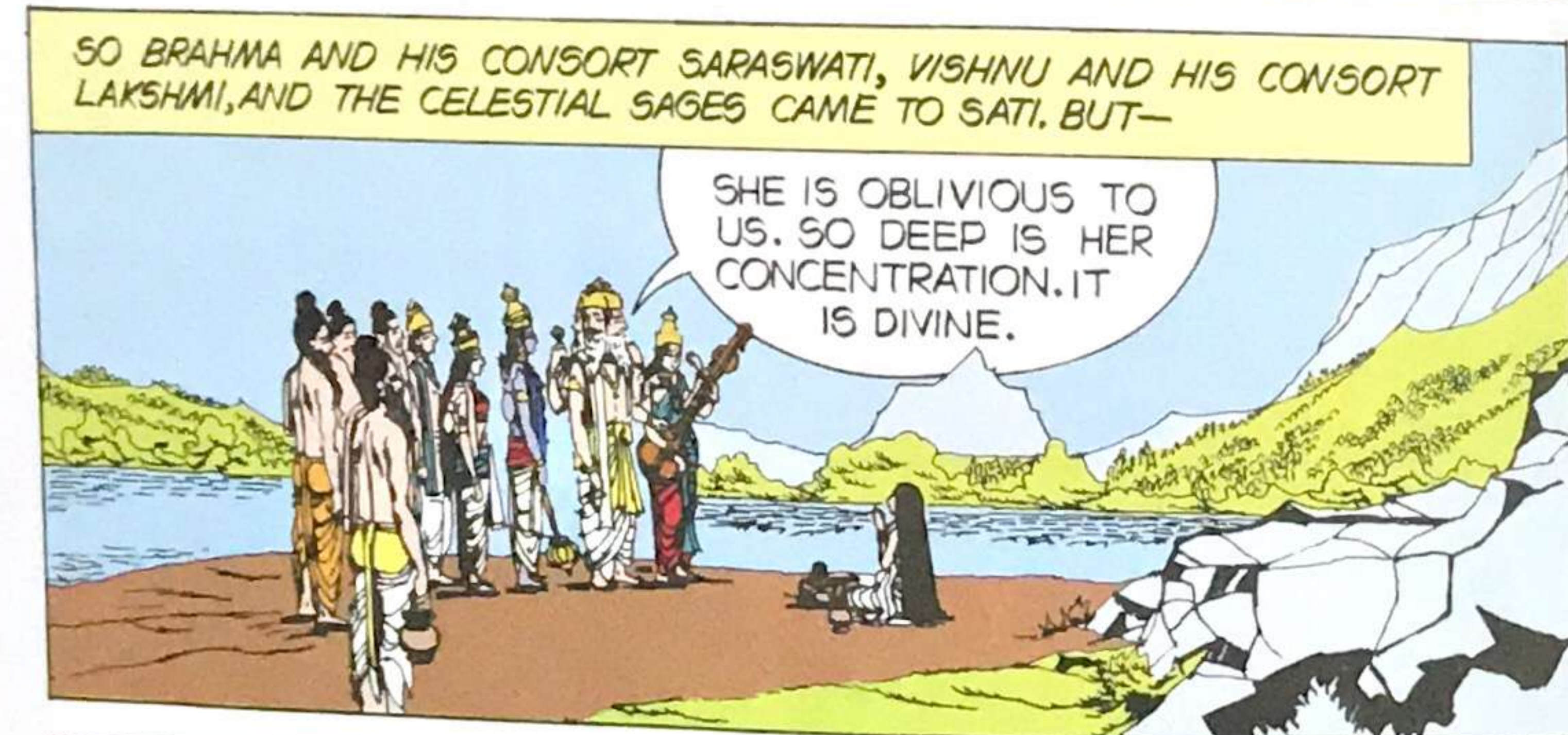
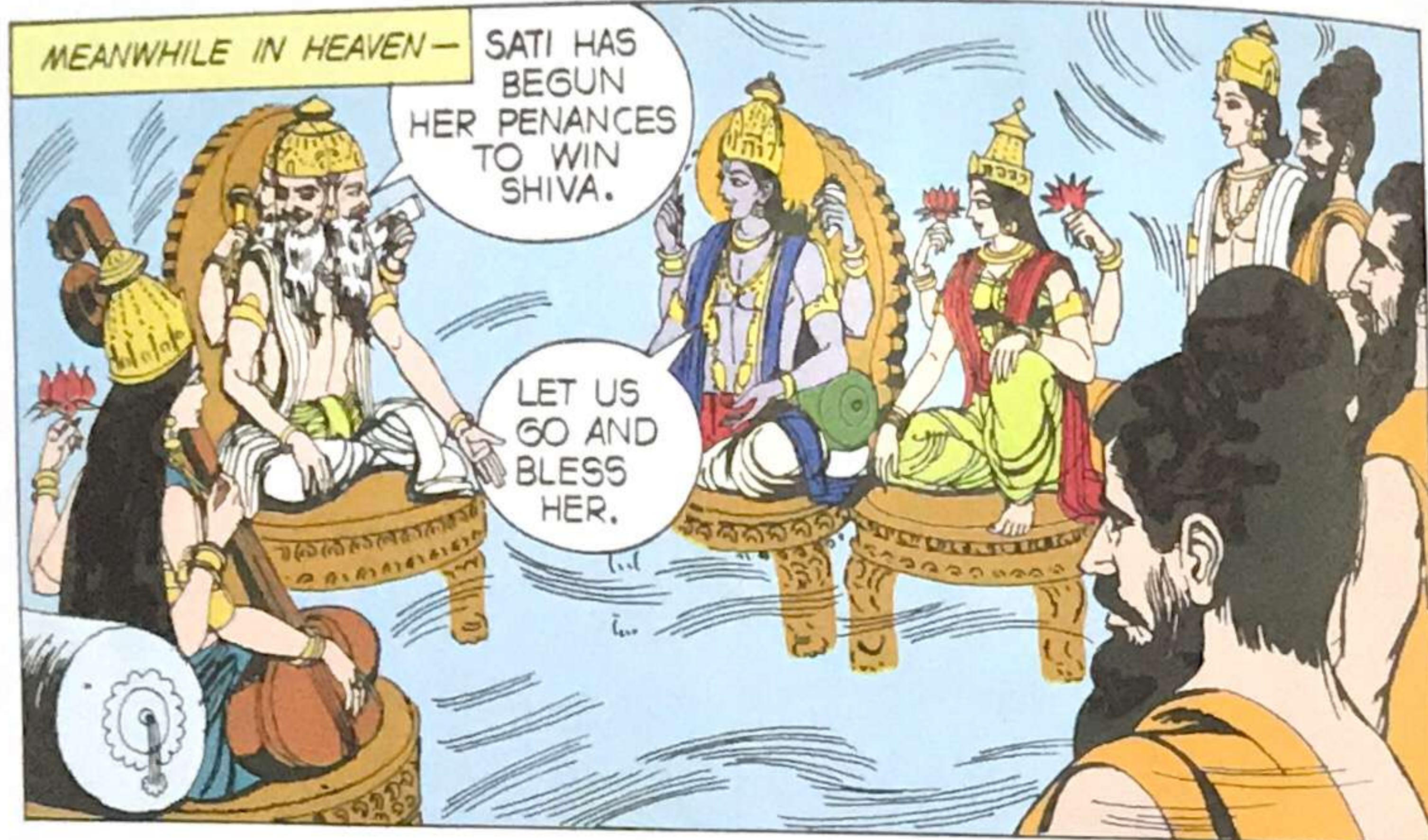


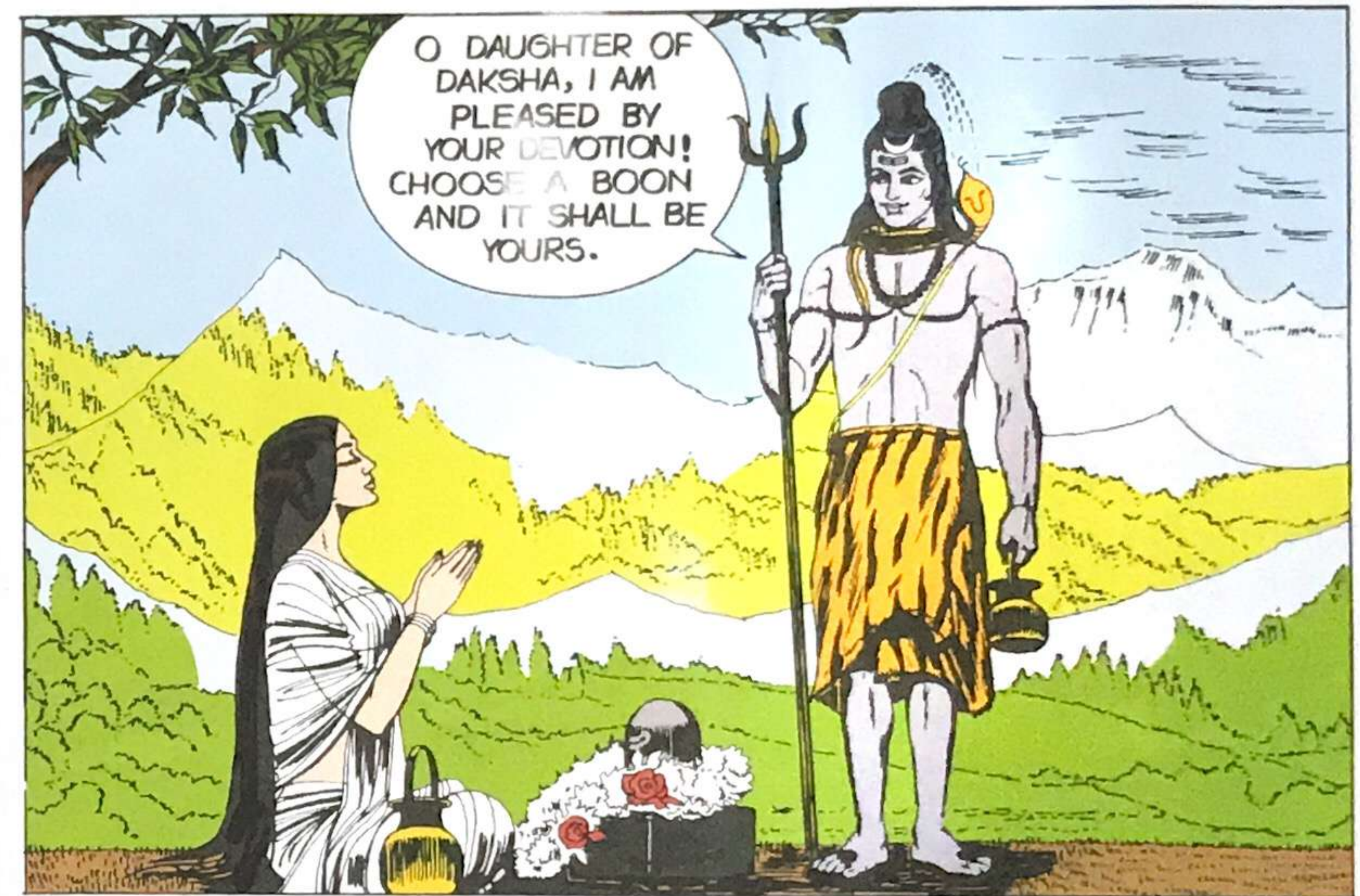
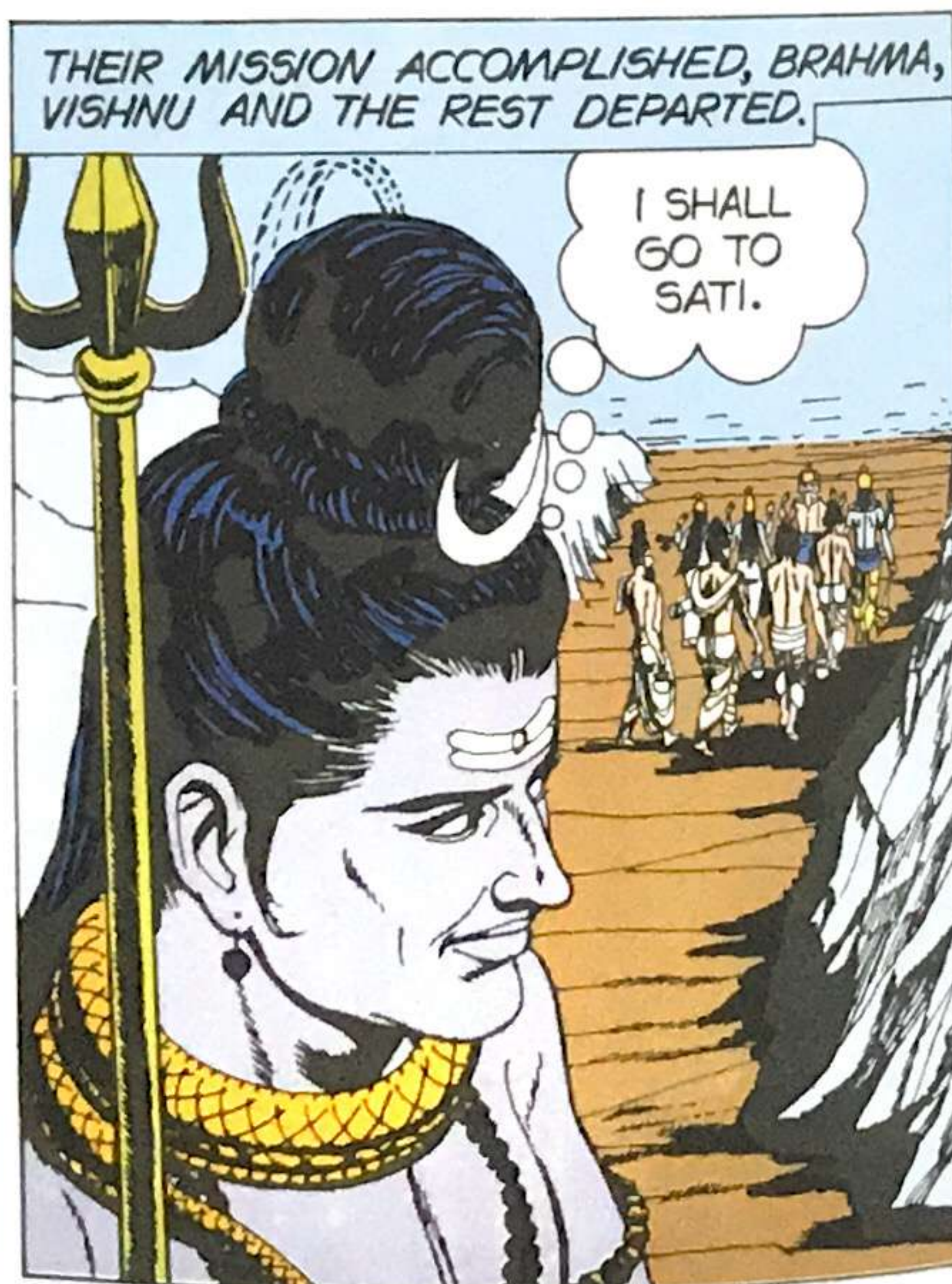
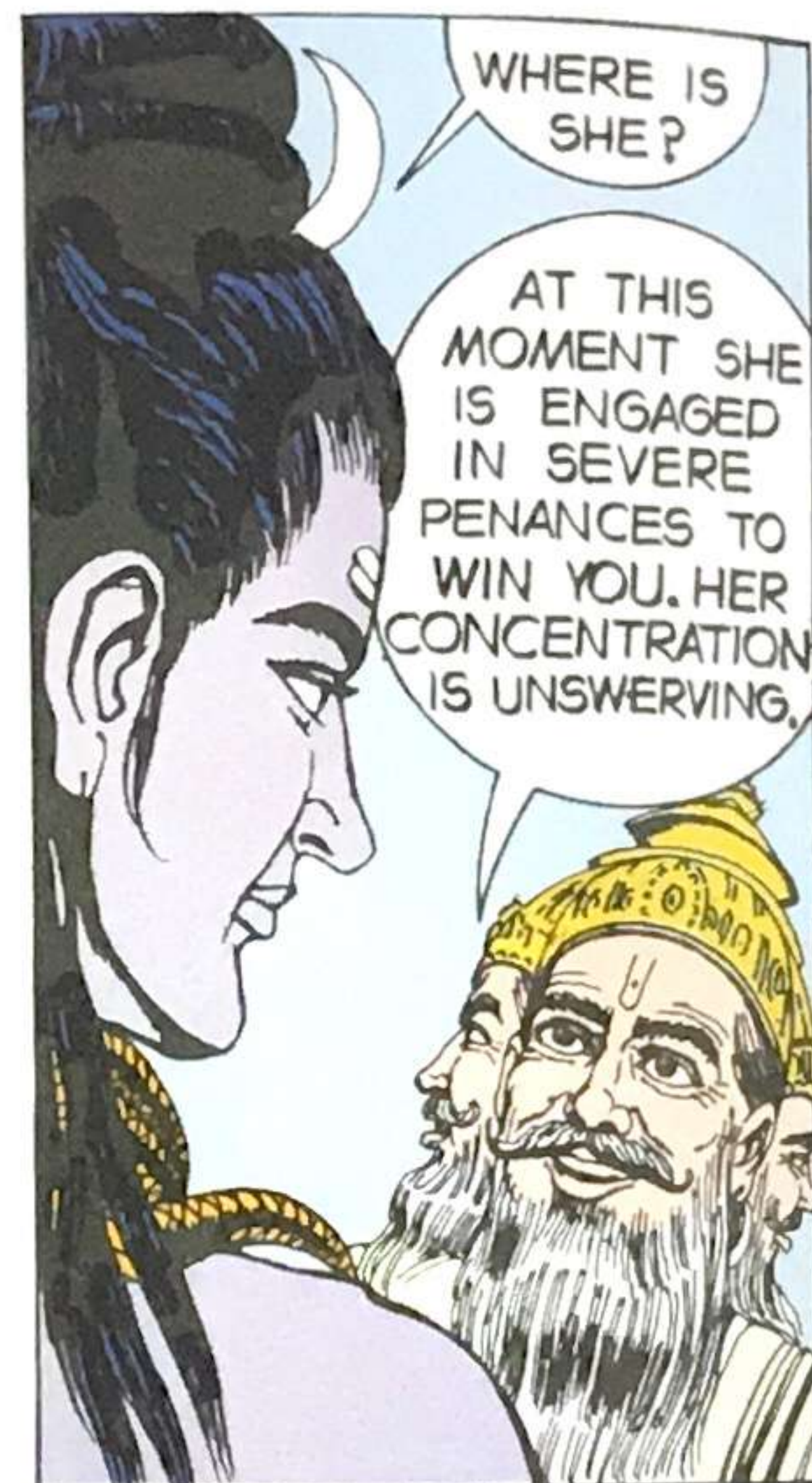
THEN, IN DRIPPING WET CLOTHES, SHE WORSHIPPED HIM ON THE BANK OF A RIVER.



HER WHOLE BEING WAS CONCENTRATED ON SHIVA. SHE KNEW NOTHING ELSE.







BUT SHIVA DID NOT LET HER COMPLETE HER QUESTION.



BE MY CONSORT, SATI.

FOR A WHILE SATI STOOD SMILING SWEETLY AT HIM. THEN —

LORD, PLEASE TAKE ME WITH THE CONSENT AND THE BLESSINGS OF MY FATHER.



SO BE IT!

WHEN SHIVA REACHED KAILAS, HE SENT FOR BRAHMA.



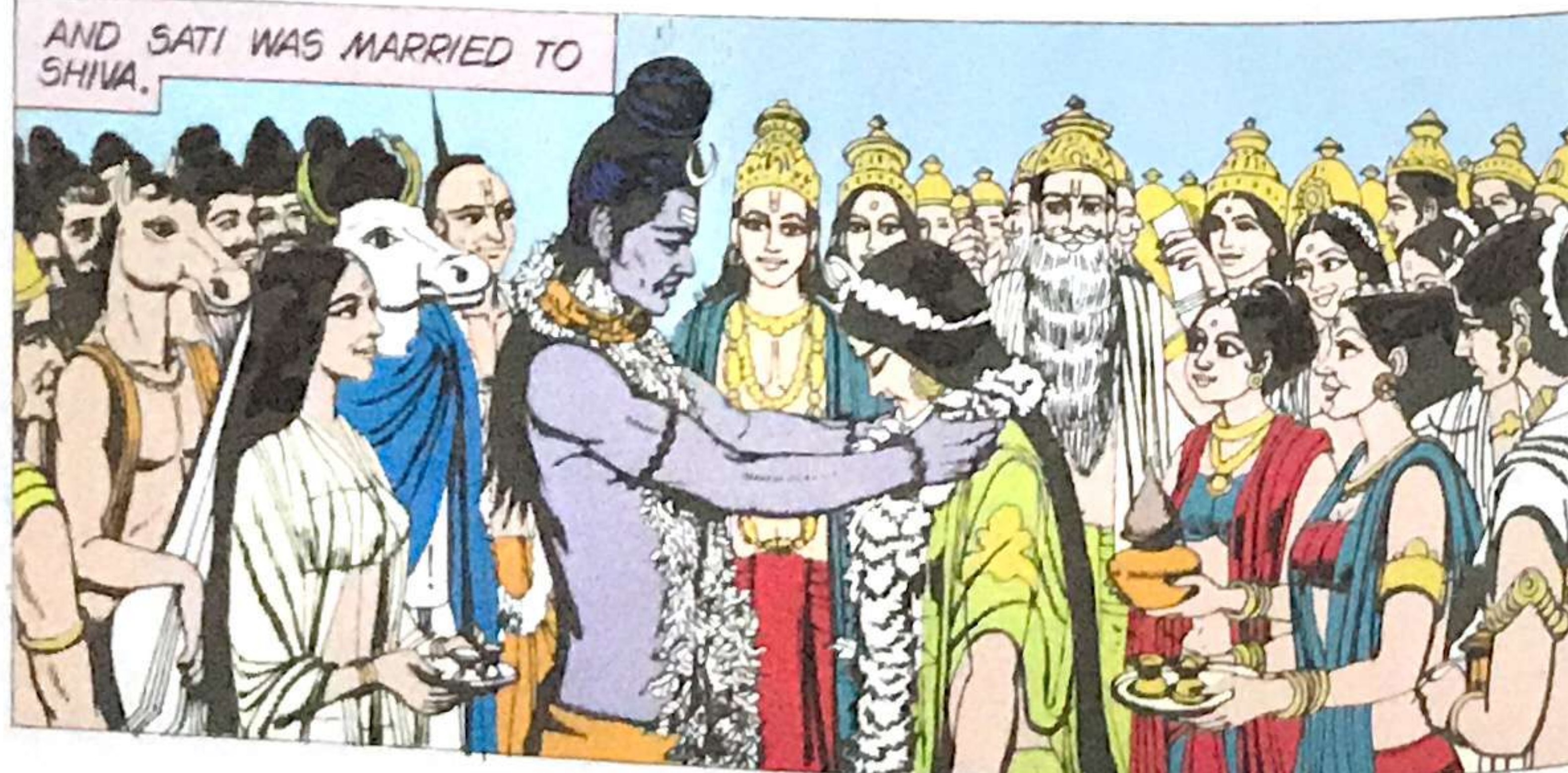
I HAVE GRANTED SATI THE BOON SHE SOUGHT. NOW YOU GO AND SPEAK TO DAKSHA.

BRAHMA SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING DAKSHA.

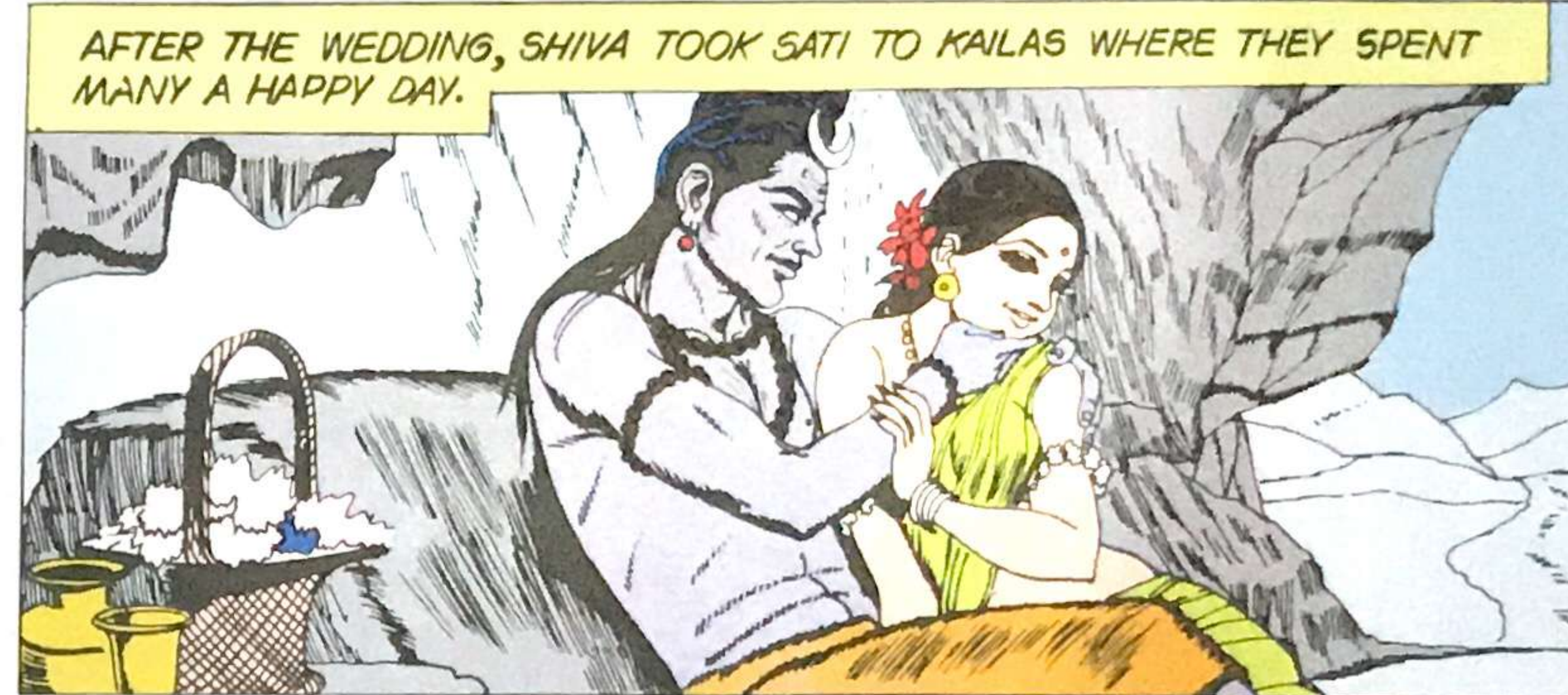


LET HIM COME TO ME ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY AND I SHALL OFFER HIM MY DAUGHTER.

AND SATI WAS MARRIED TO SHIVA.



AFTER THE WEDDING, SHIVA TOOK SATI TO KAILAS WHERE THEY SPENT MANY A HAPPY DAY.



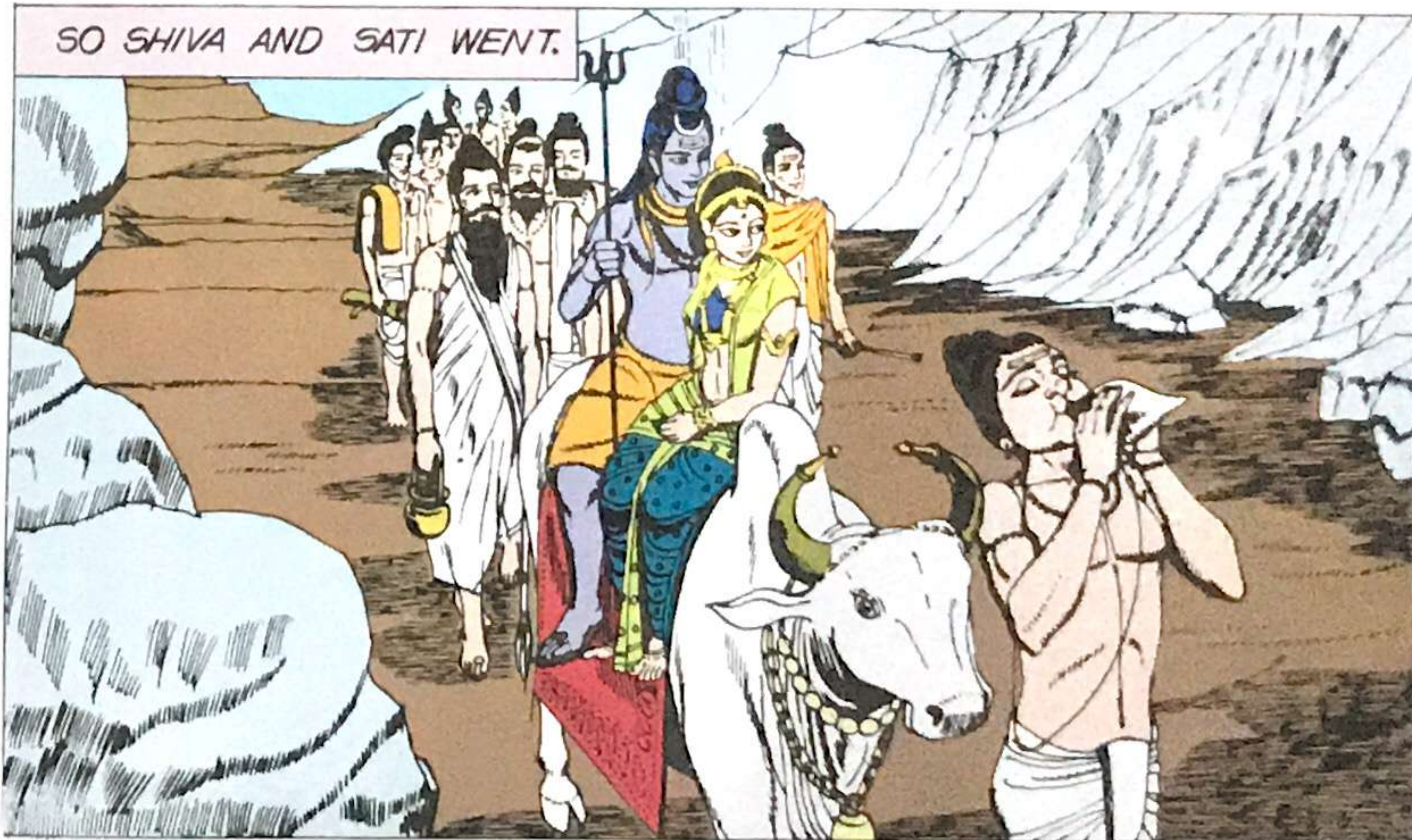
THEN ONE DAY —



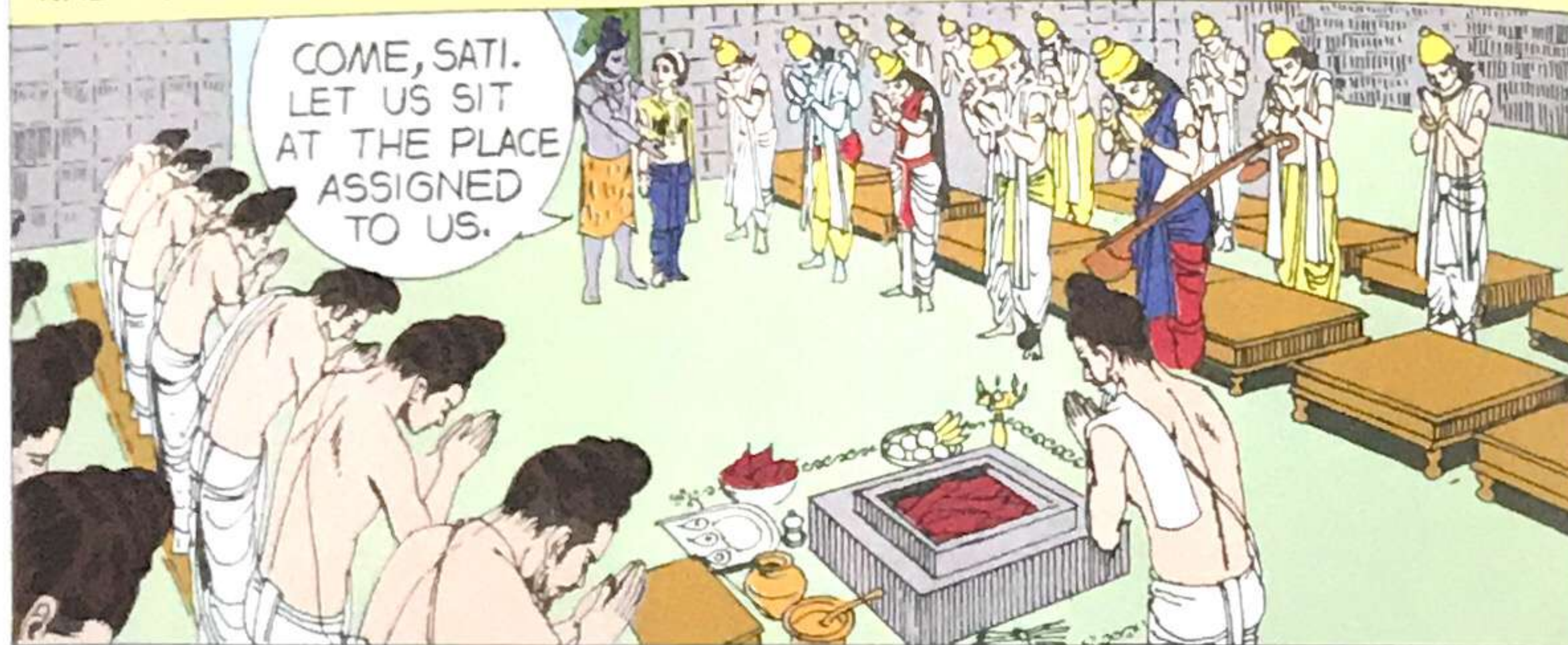
THE SAGES AT PRAYAG ARE PERFORMING A GRAND YAGNA. ALL THE CELESTIAL BEINGS HAVE BEEN INVITED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

I WOULD, MY LORD!

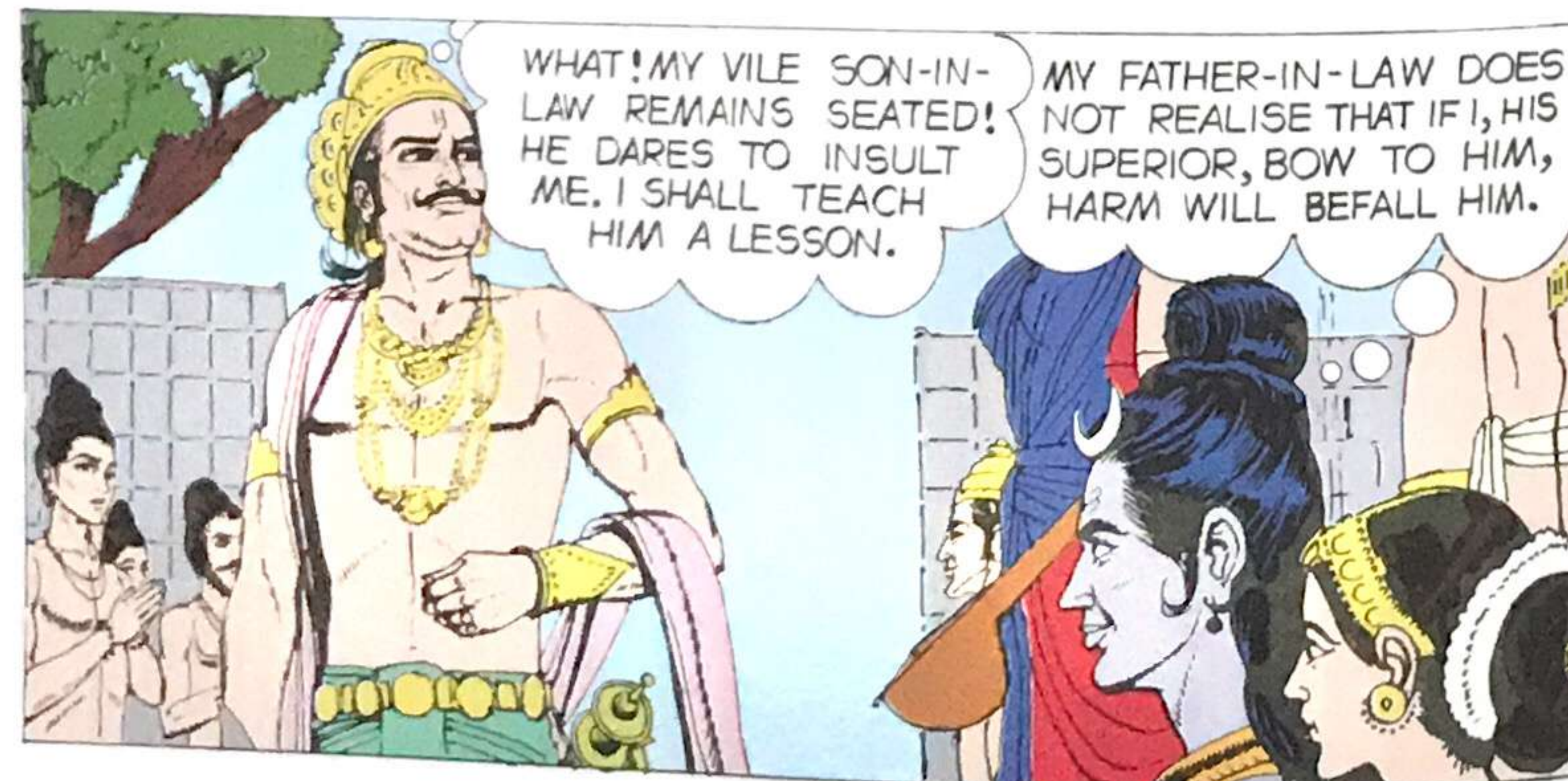
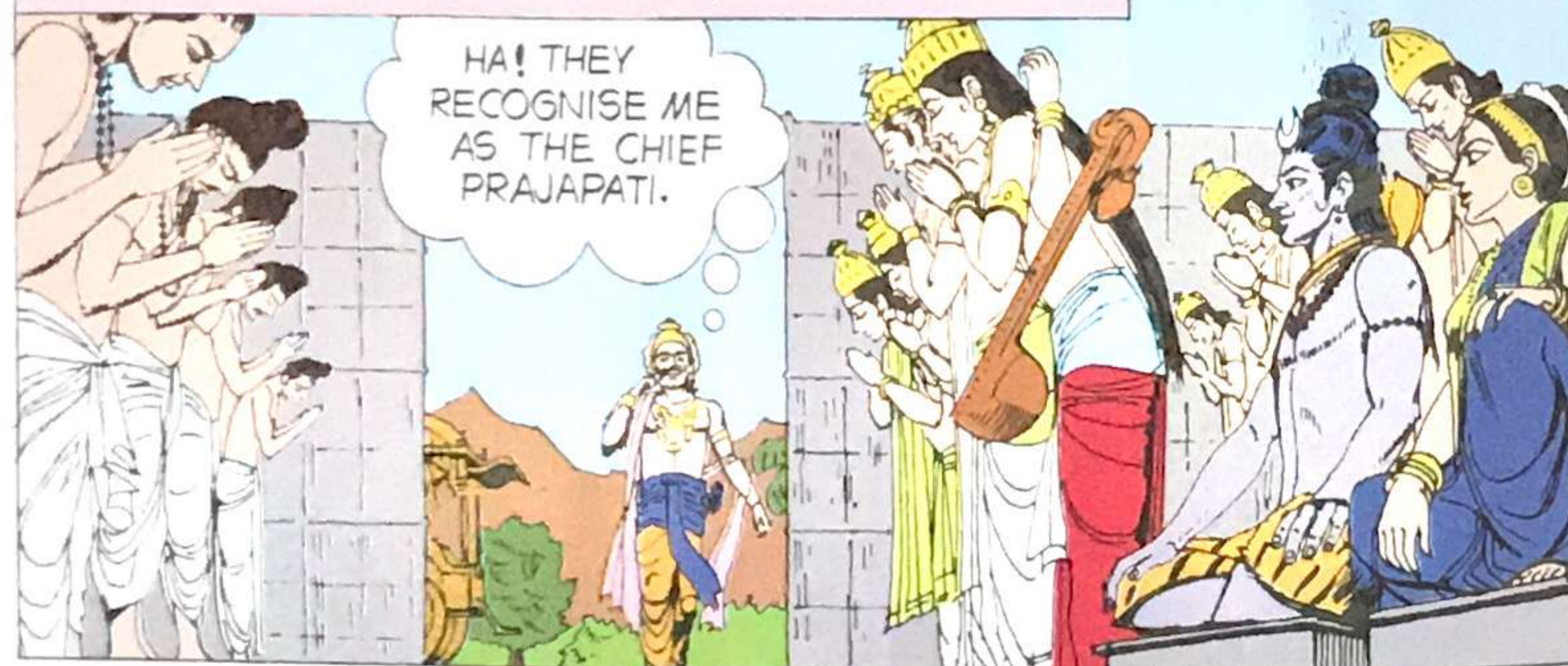
SO SHIVA AND SATI WENT.



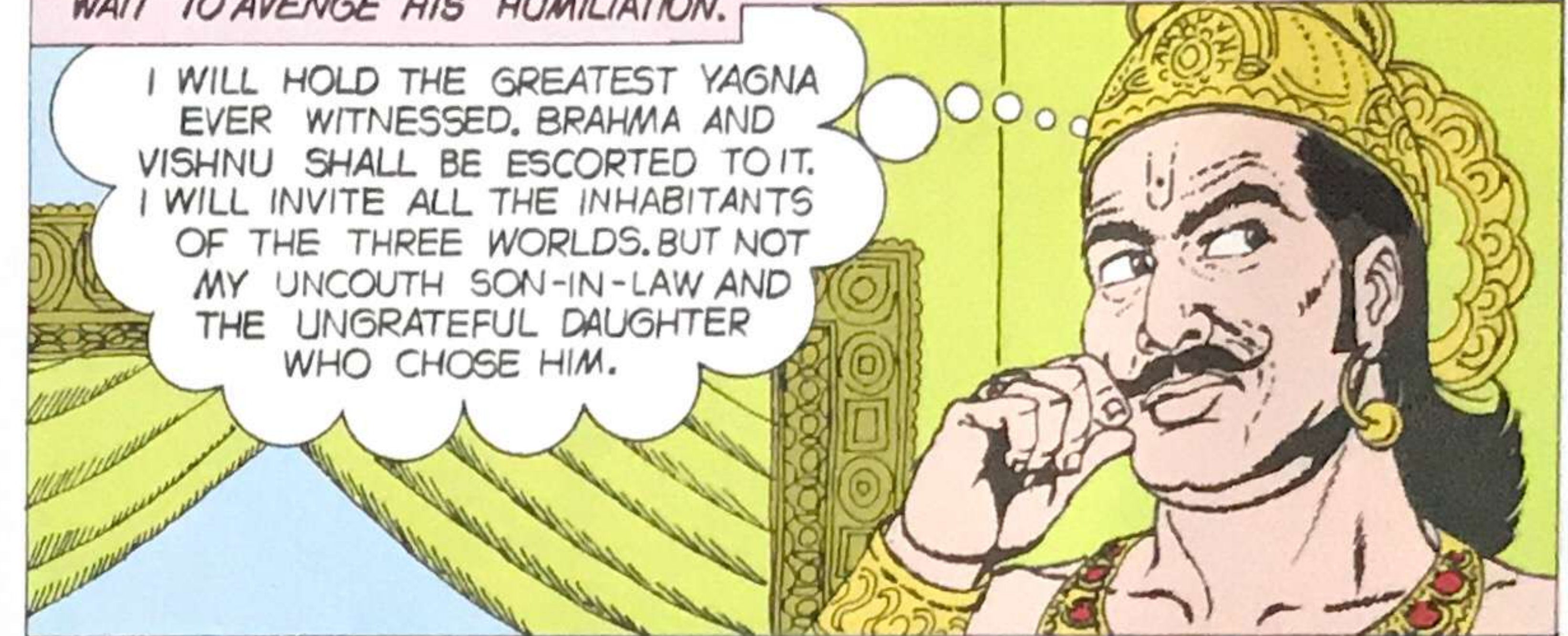
WHEN THEY ENTERED THE GROUNDS, THE DEVAS AND SAGES BOWED TO THEM.



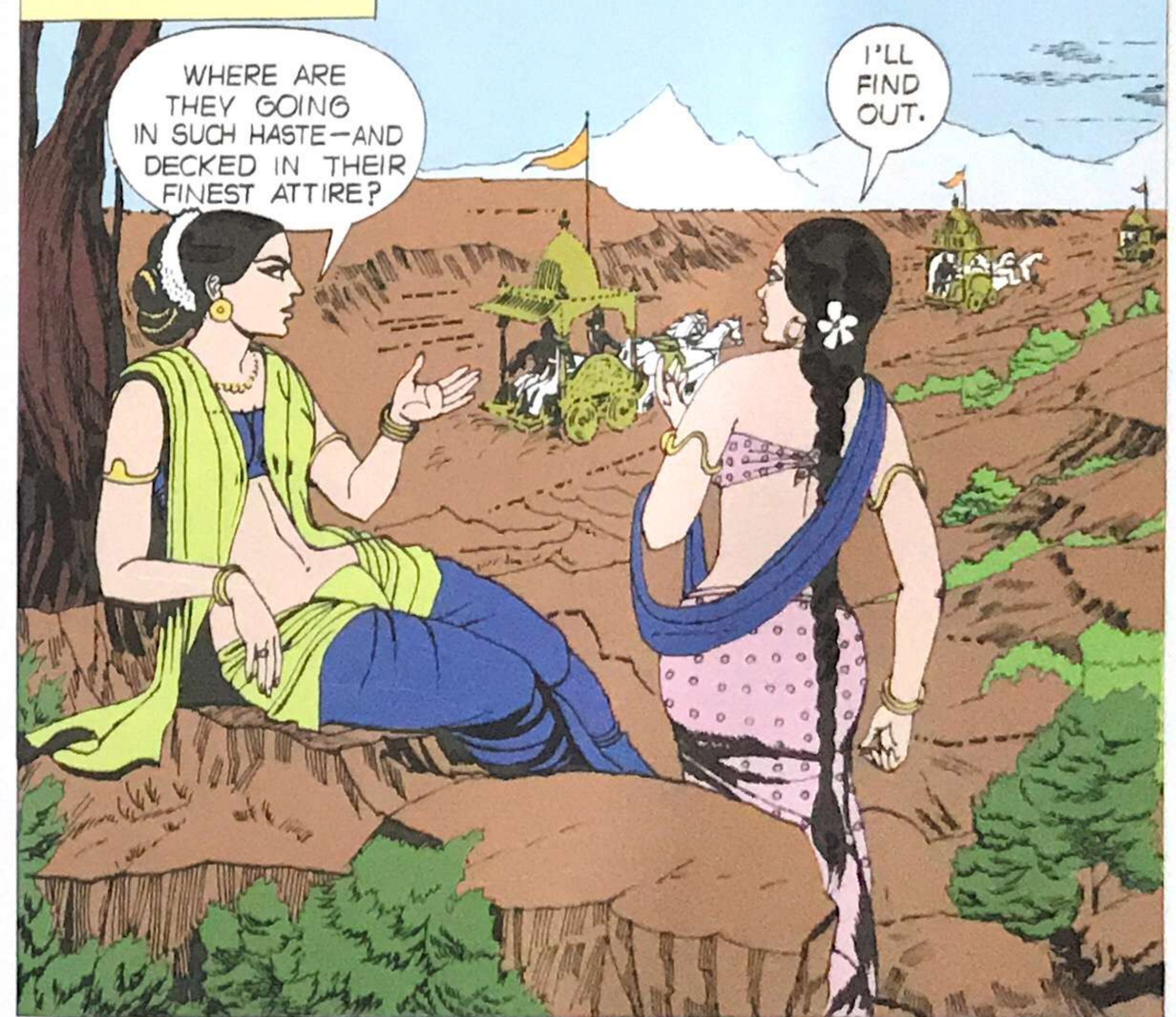
AS SOON AS THEY WERE SEATED, DAKSHA ENTERED.



AFTER THE SACRIFICE WHEN DAKSHA REACHED HIS ABODE, HE COULD HARDLY WAIT TO AVENGE HIS HUMILIATION.



A FEW DAYS LATER—



WHEN SHE LEARNT THAT THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO DAKSHA'S GRAND YAGNA—



HOW STRANGE THAT MY MISTRESS AND THE LORD HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED!

SHE RETURNED TO SATI.

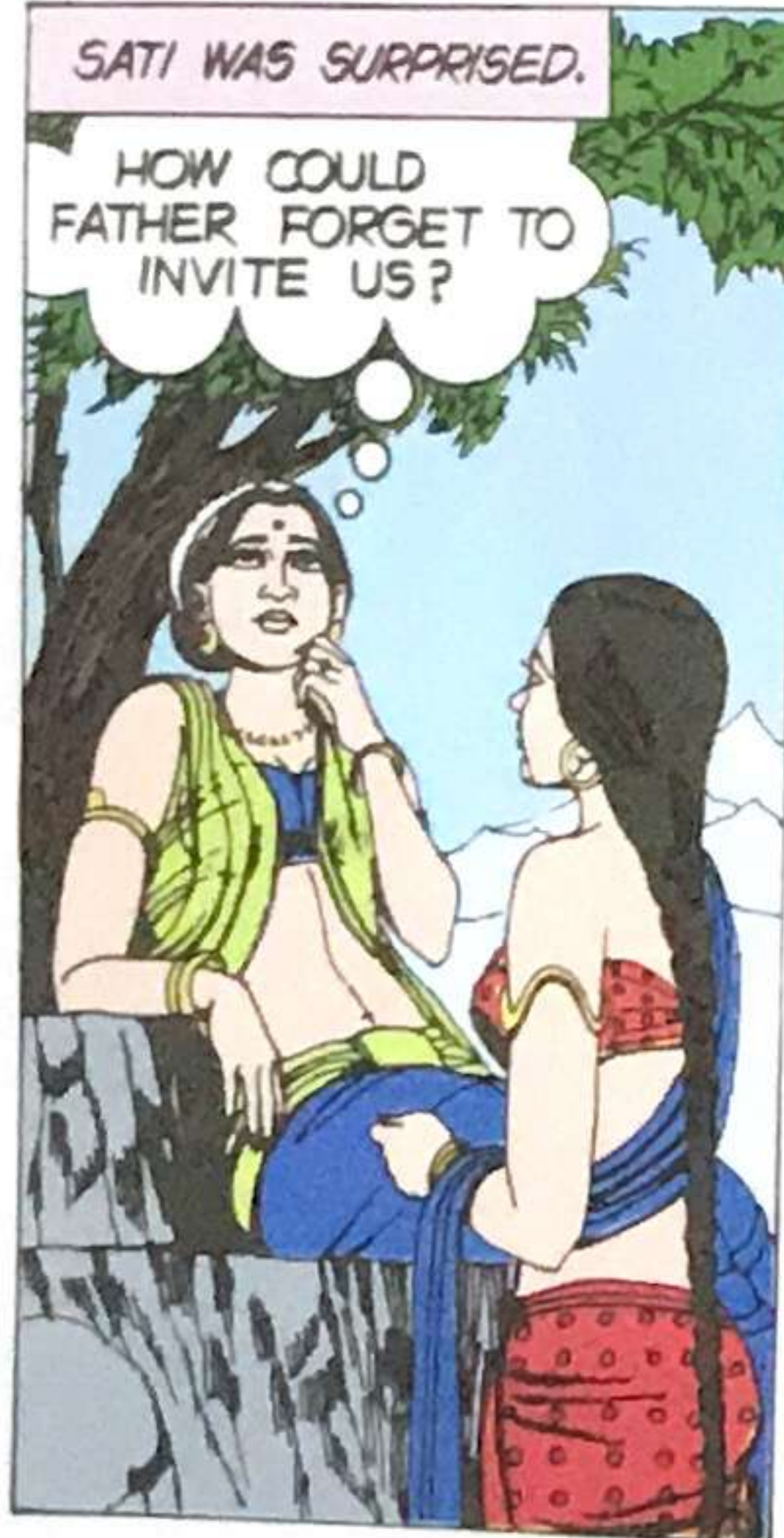
THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO A GRAND YAGNA, YOUR FATHER IS PERFORMING.



MY FATHER?

SATI WAS SURPRISED.

HOW COULD FATHER FORGET TO INVITE US?

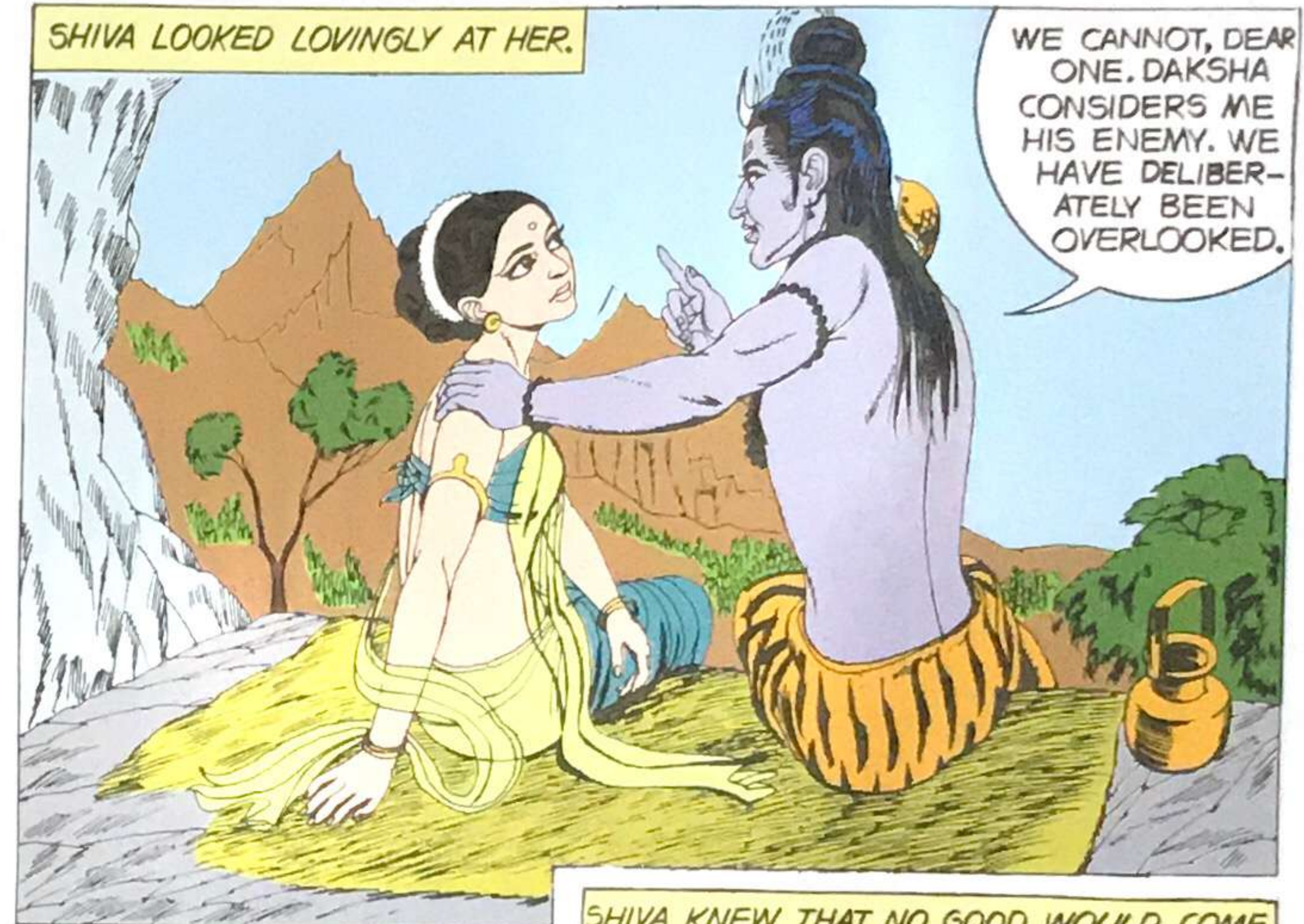


SHE WENT TO SHIVA AND TOLD HIM ABOUT THE SACRIFICE.



LET US GO TO MY FATHER'S SACRIFICIAL HALL.

SHIVA LOOKED LOVINGLY AT HER.



WE CANNOT, DEAR ONE. DAKSHA CONSIDERS ME HIS ENEMY. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY BEEN OVERLOOKED.

SHIVA KNEW THAT NO GOOD WOULD COME OF HER VISIT. BUT SHE WAS HIS EQUAL.

BUT SATI PERSISTED.

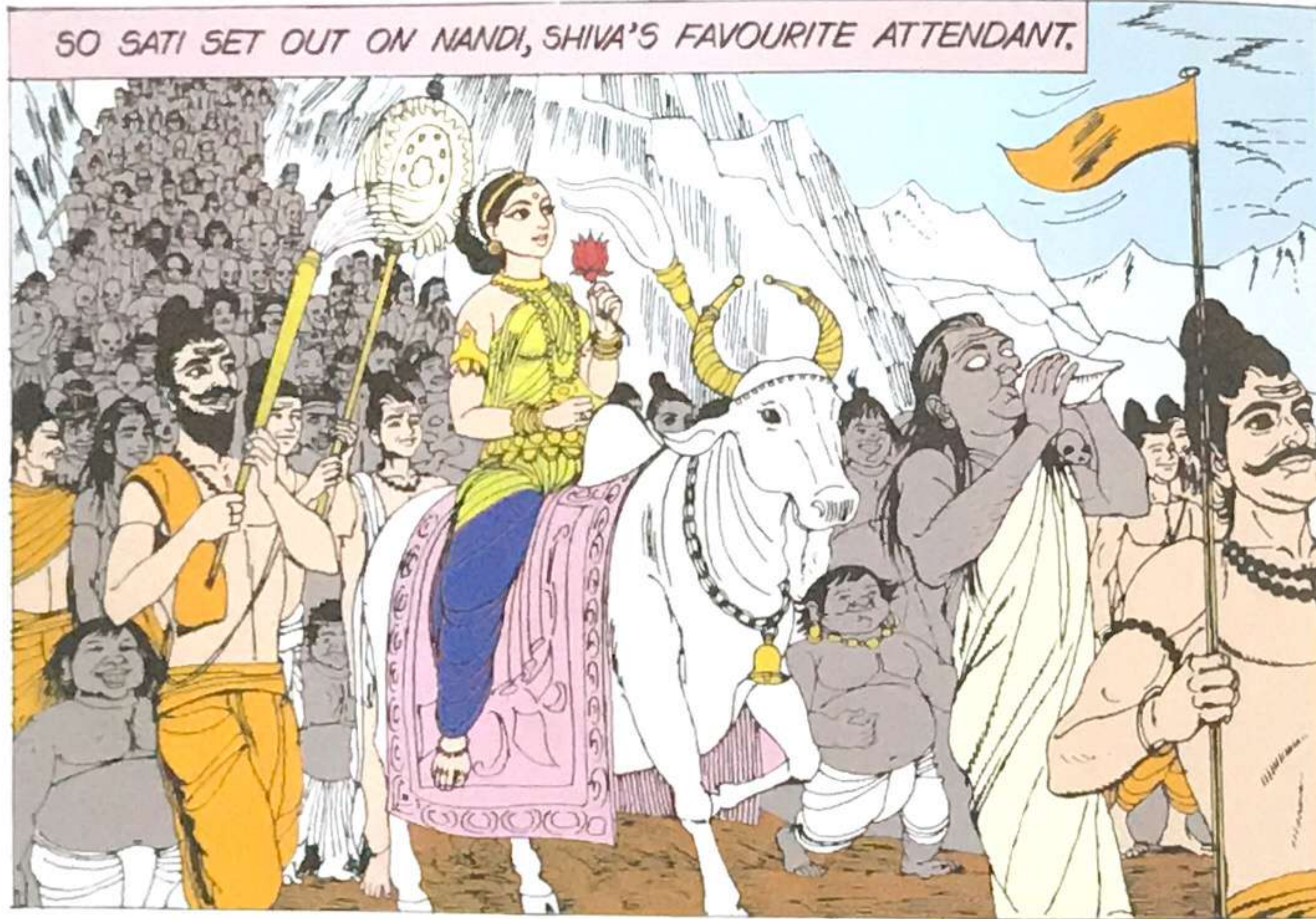
ALL THE SAME I WOULD LIKE TO GO.



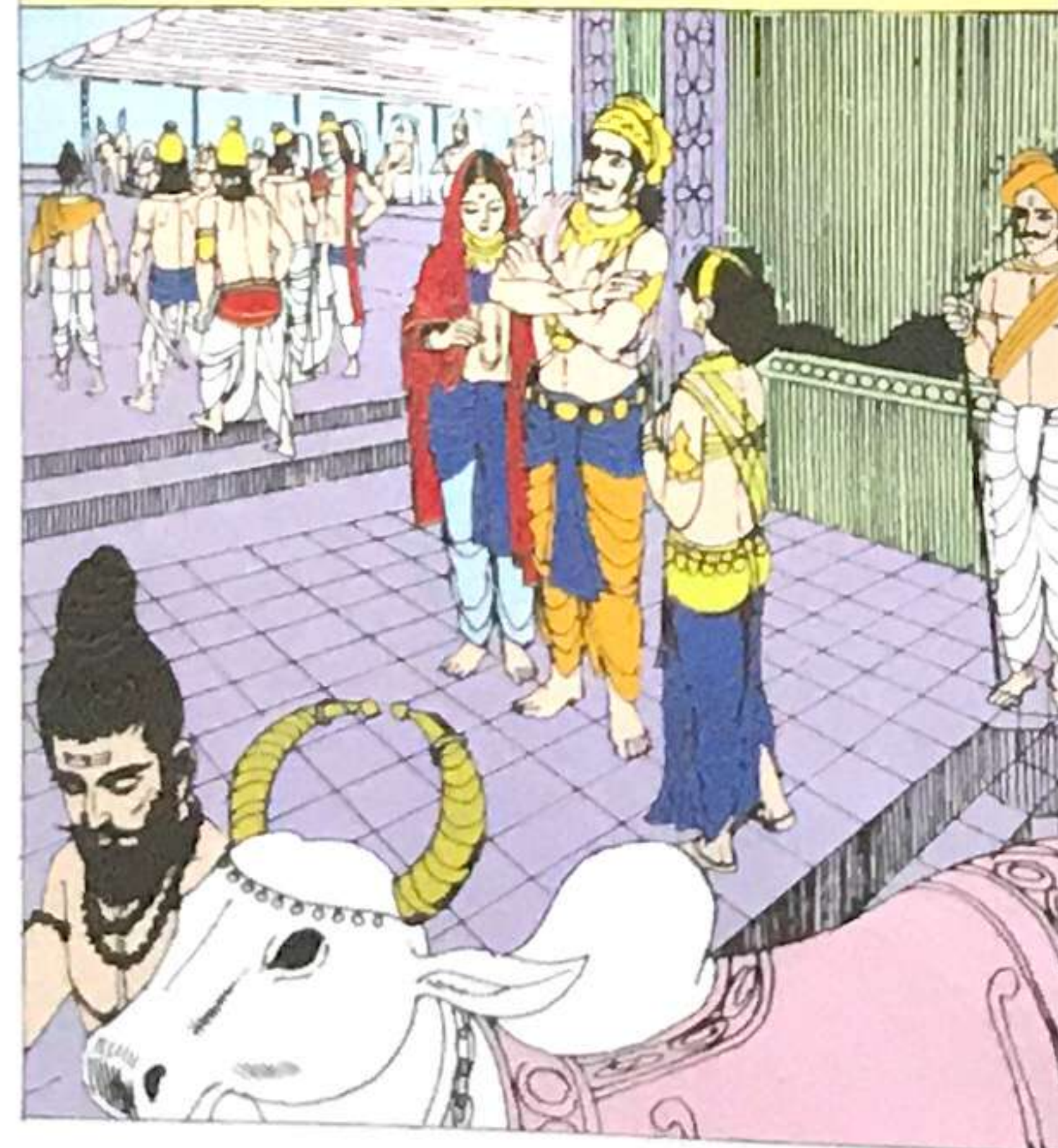
I WILL NOT COME. BUT IF YOU REALLY MUST GO, I WILL WILLINGLY SEND YOU—AND IN ROYAL SPLENDOR. NANDI, MY ATTENDANT, WILL CARRY YOU THERE.



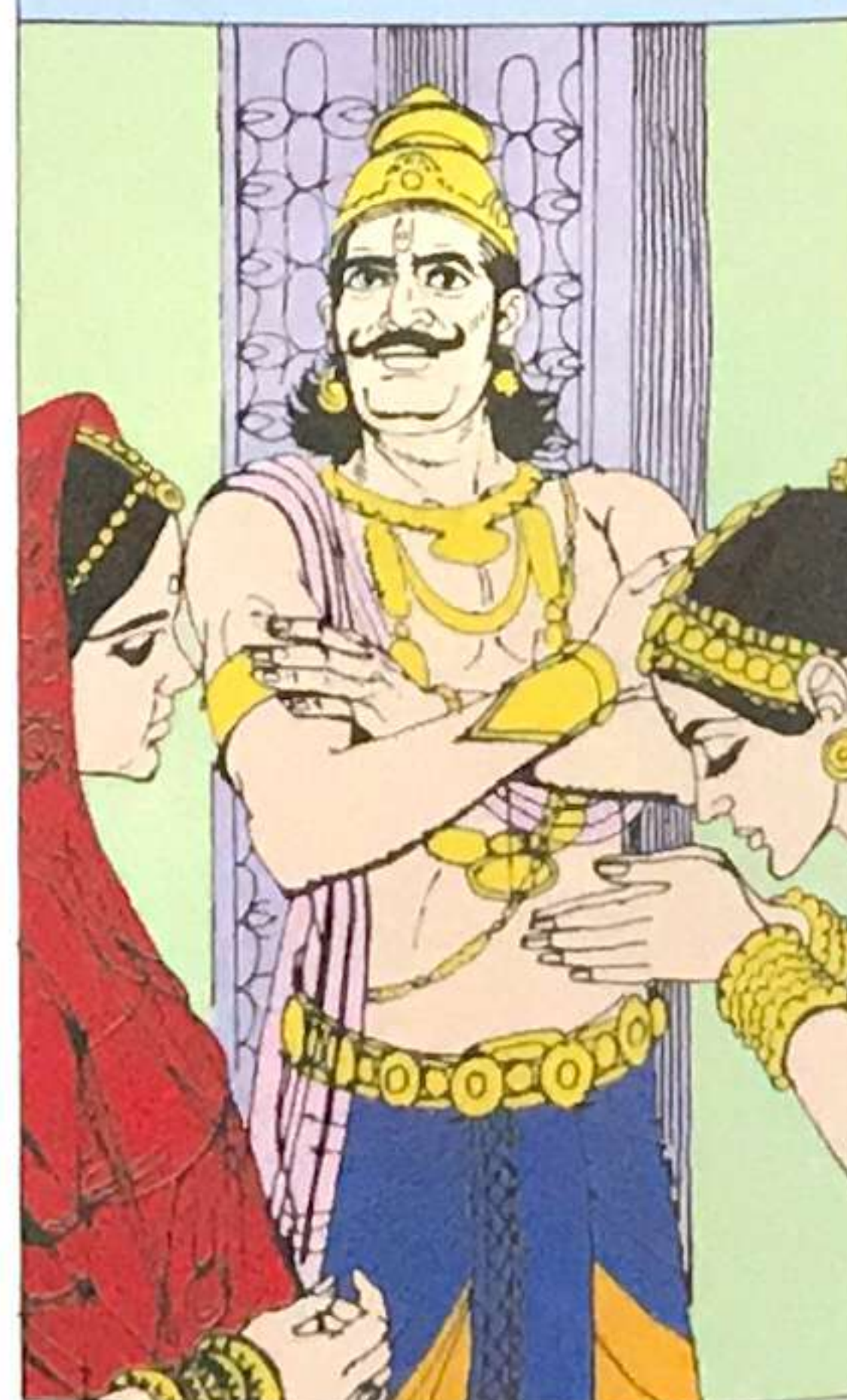
SO SATI SET OUT ON NANDI, SHIVA'S FAVOURITE ATTENDANT.



AT THE GATES OF DAKSHA'S ABODE, SATI DISMOUNTED AND WALKED UP TO HER FATHER. BUT HE IGNORED HER PRESENCE.



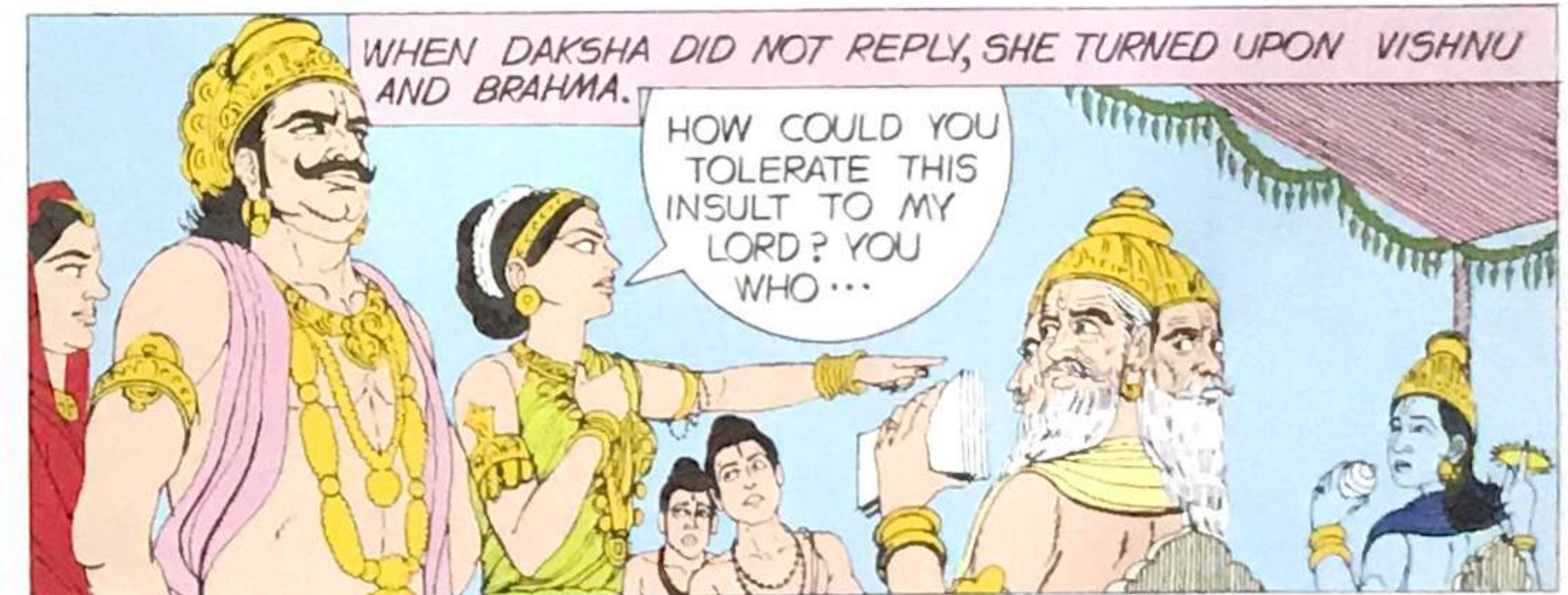
YET SATI, EVER DUTIFUL, BOWED TO HER PARENTS.



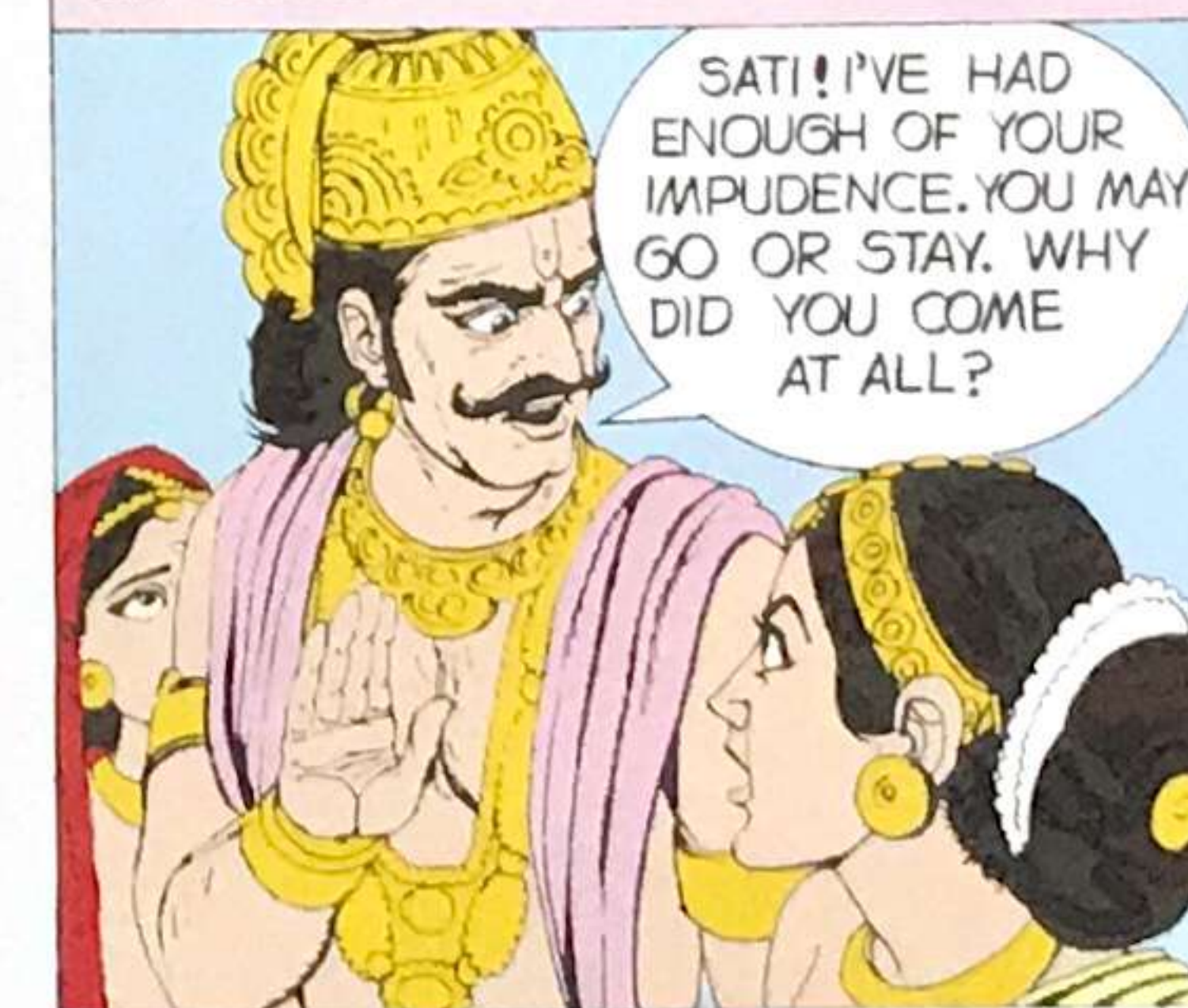
THEN—



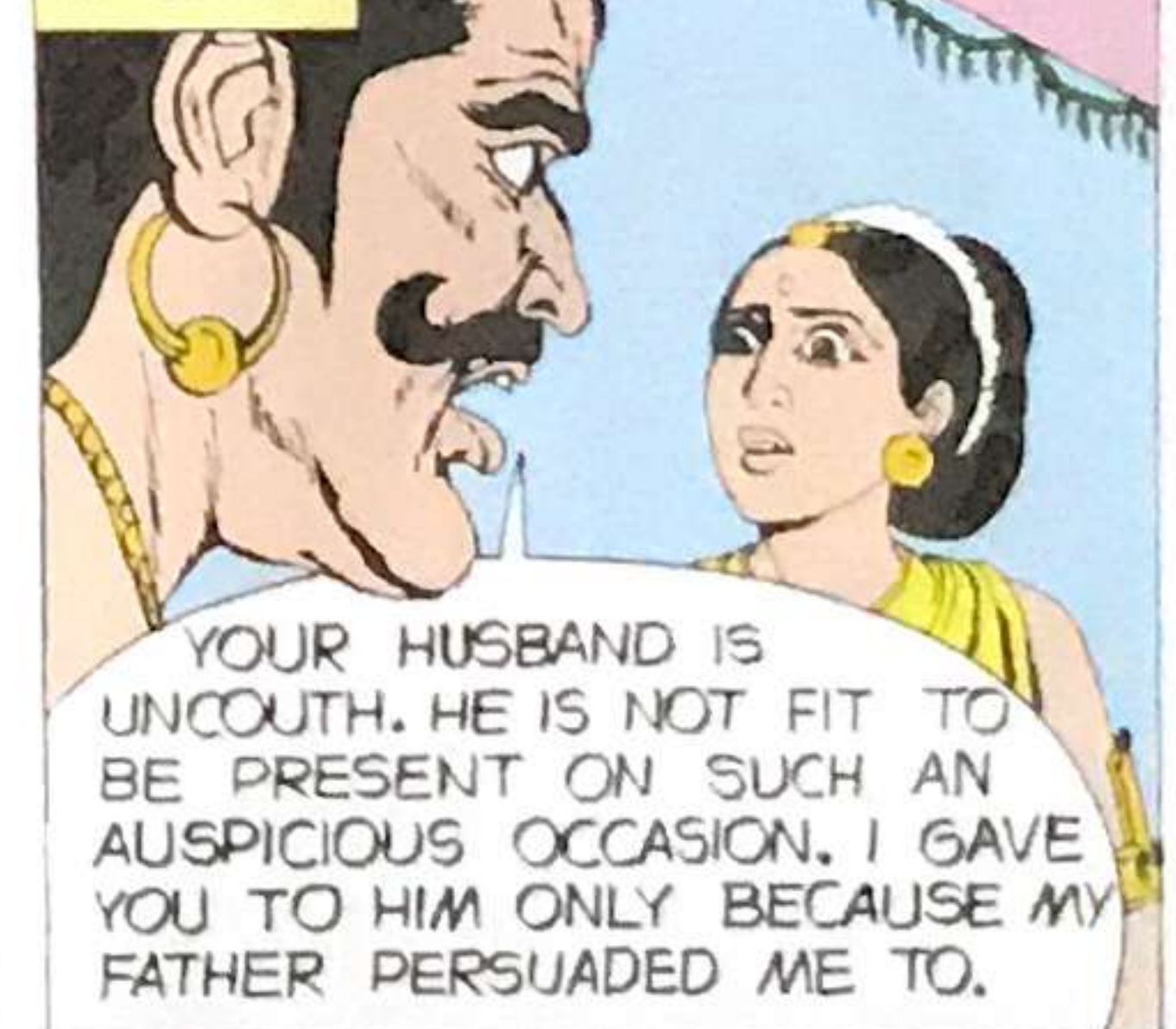
WHEN DAKSHA DID NOT REPLY, SHE TURNED UPON VISHNU AND BRAHMA.

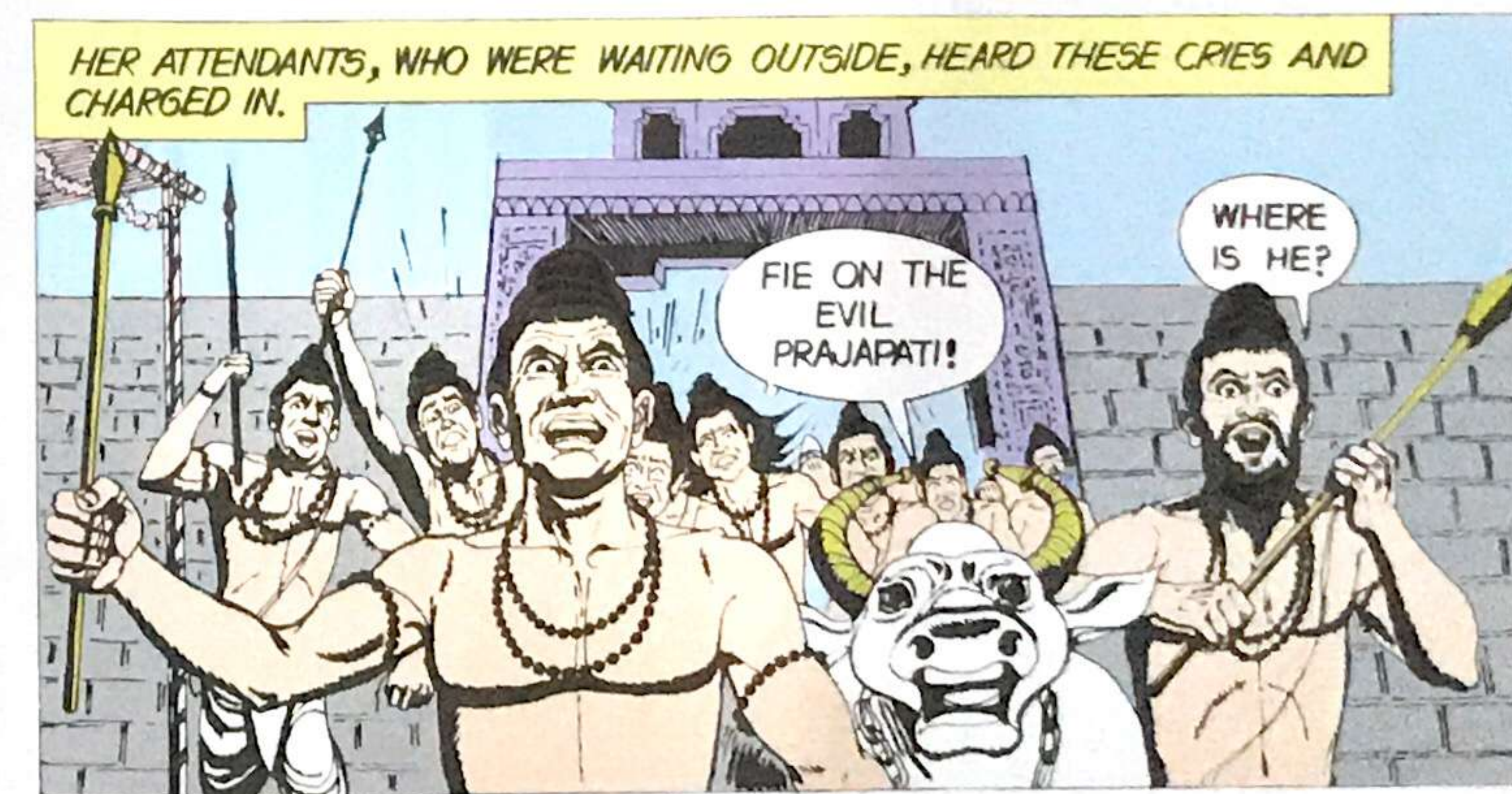
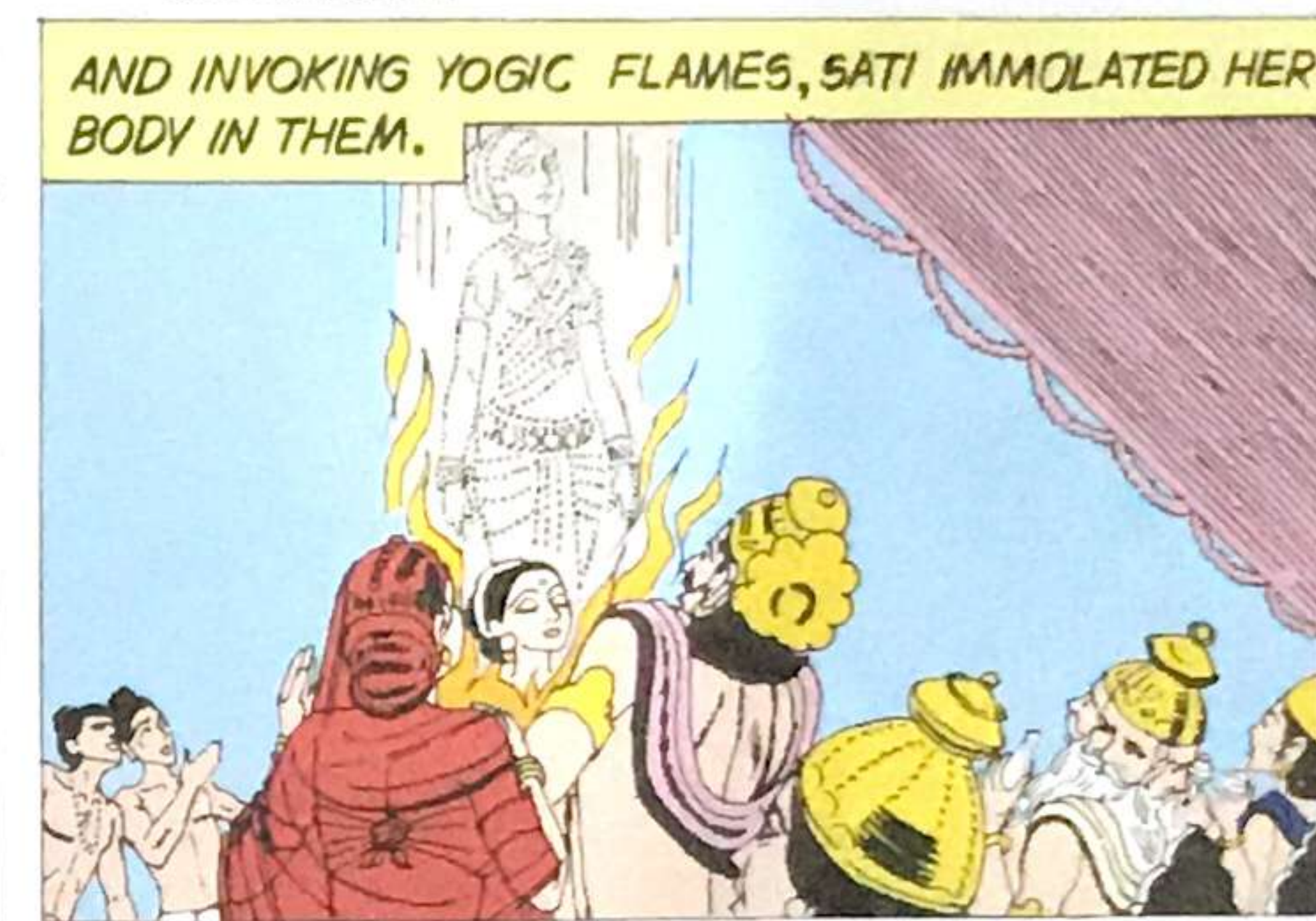
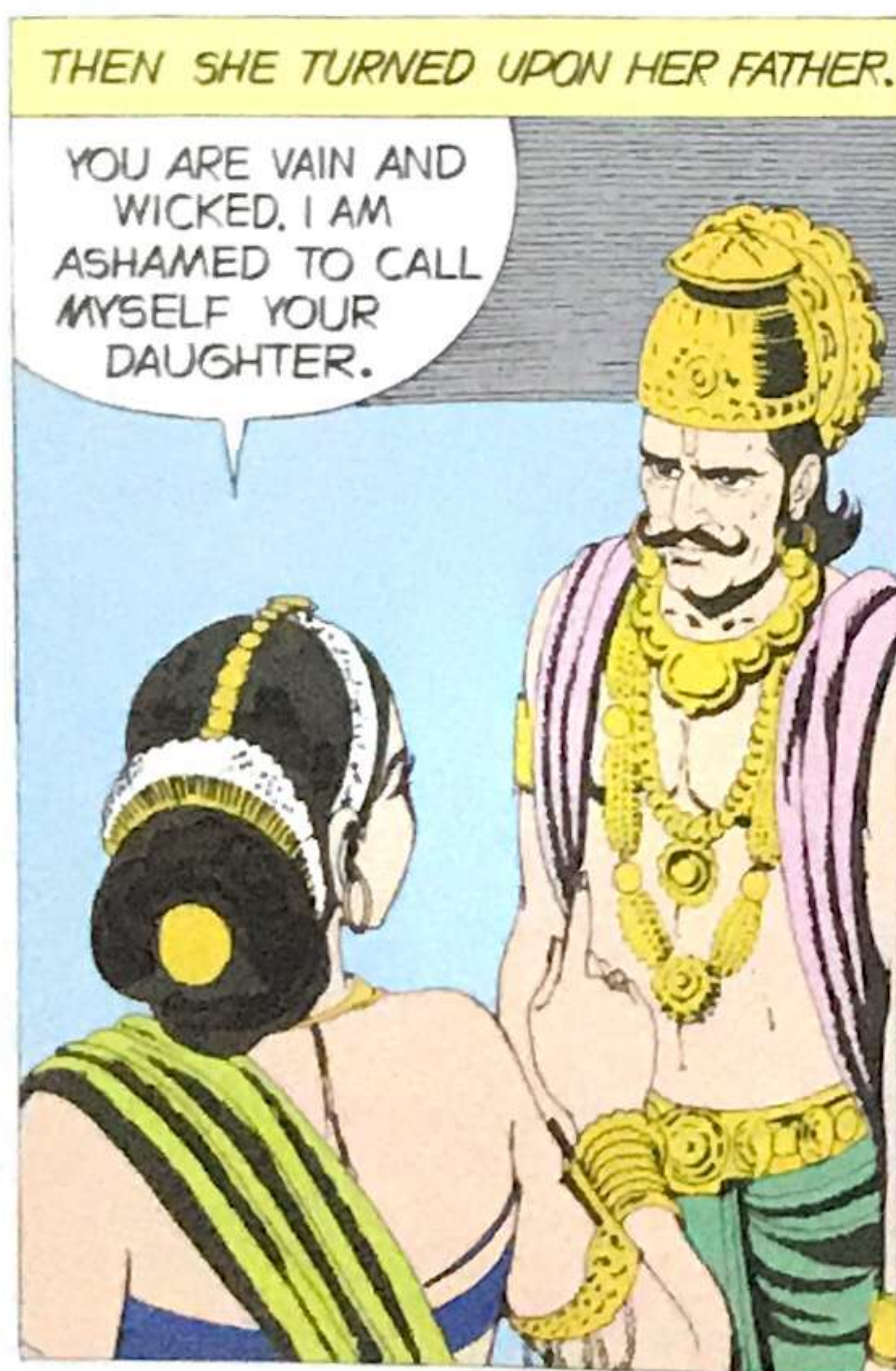
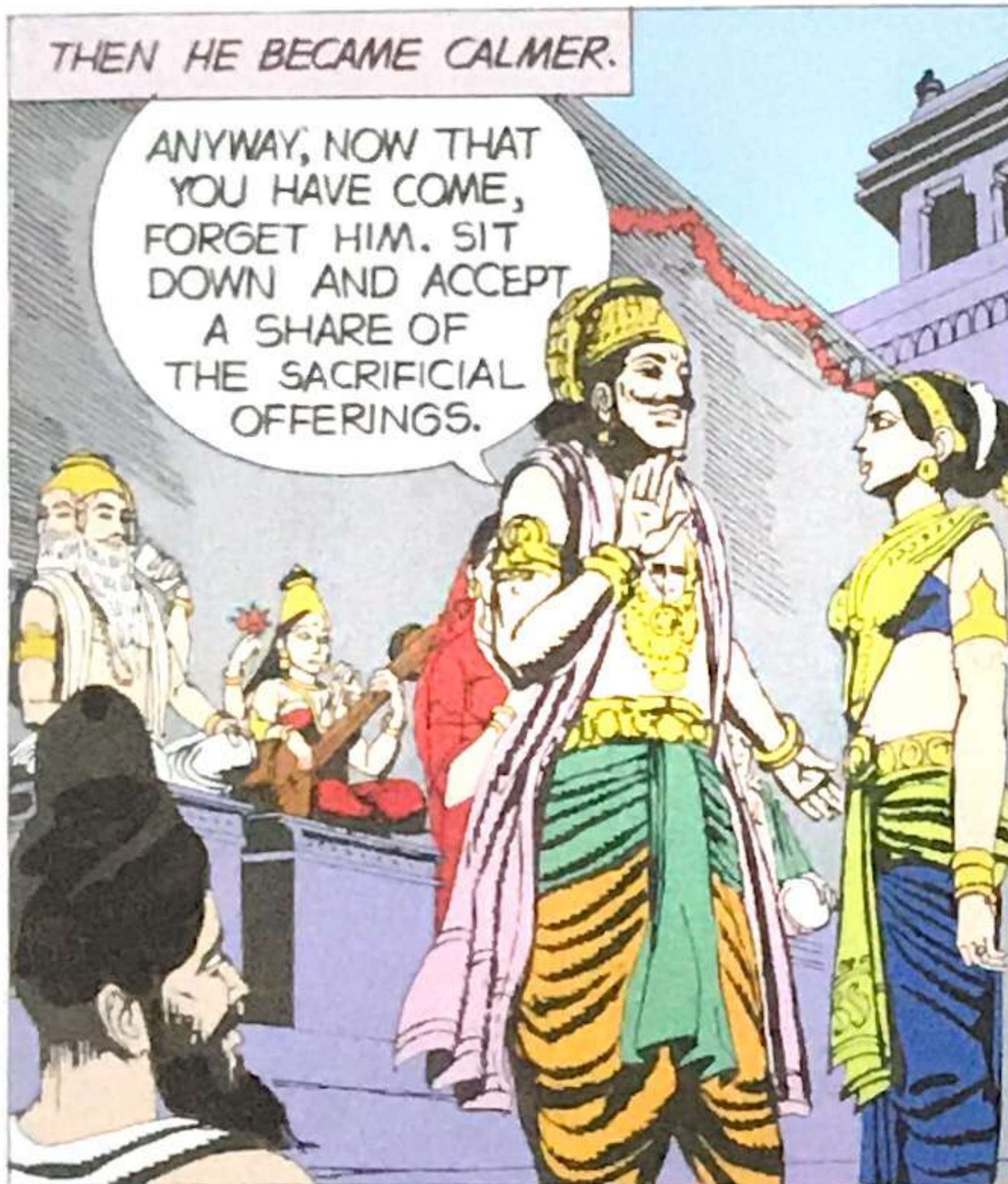


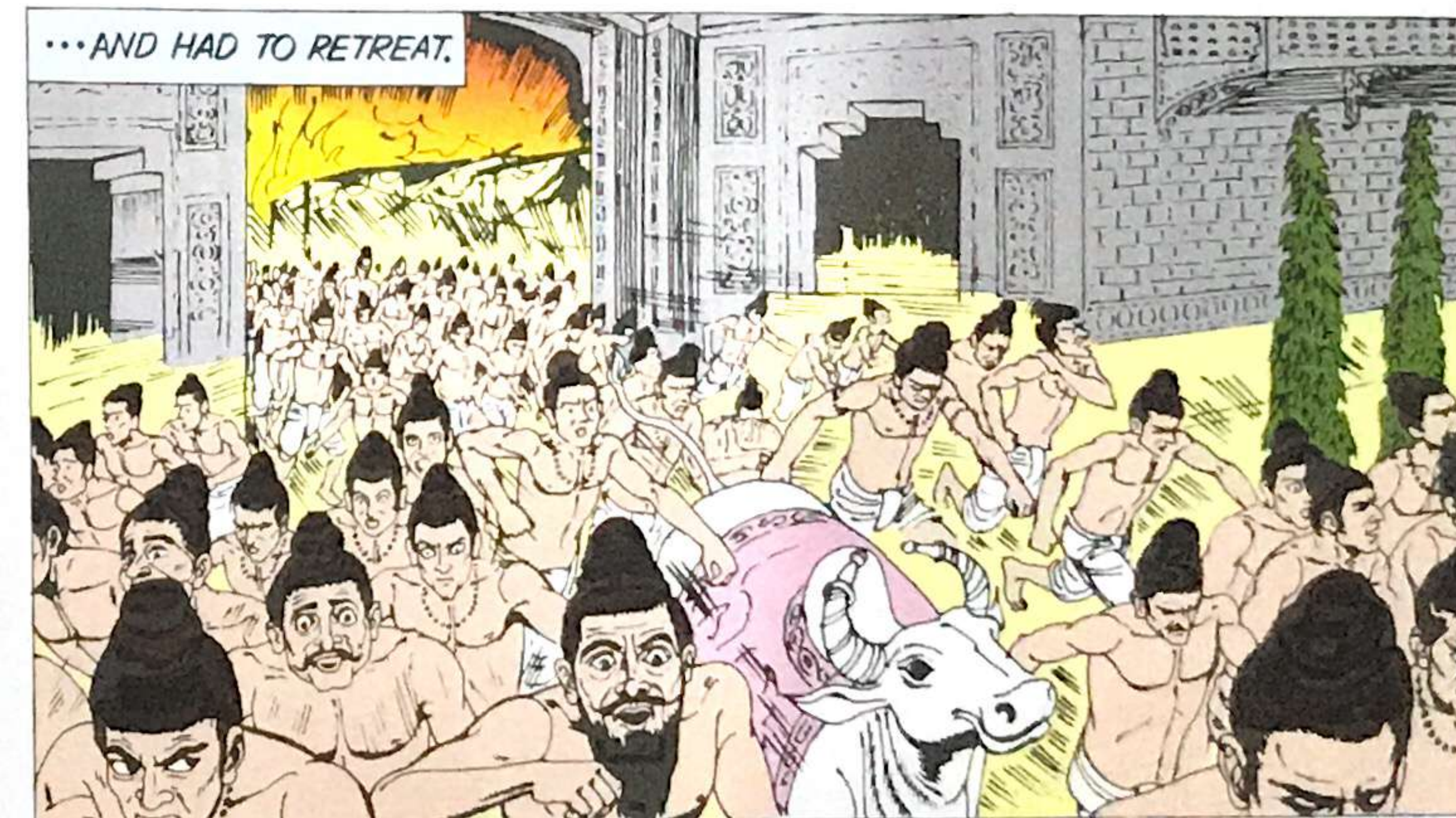
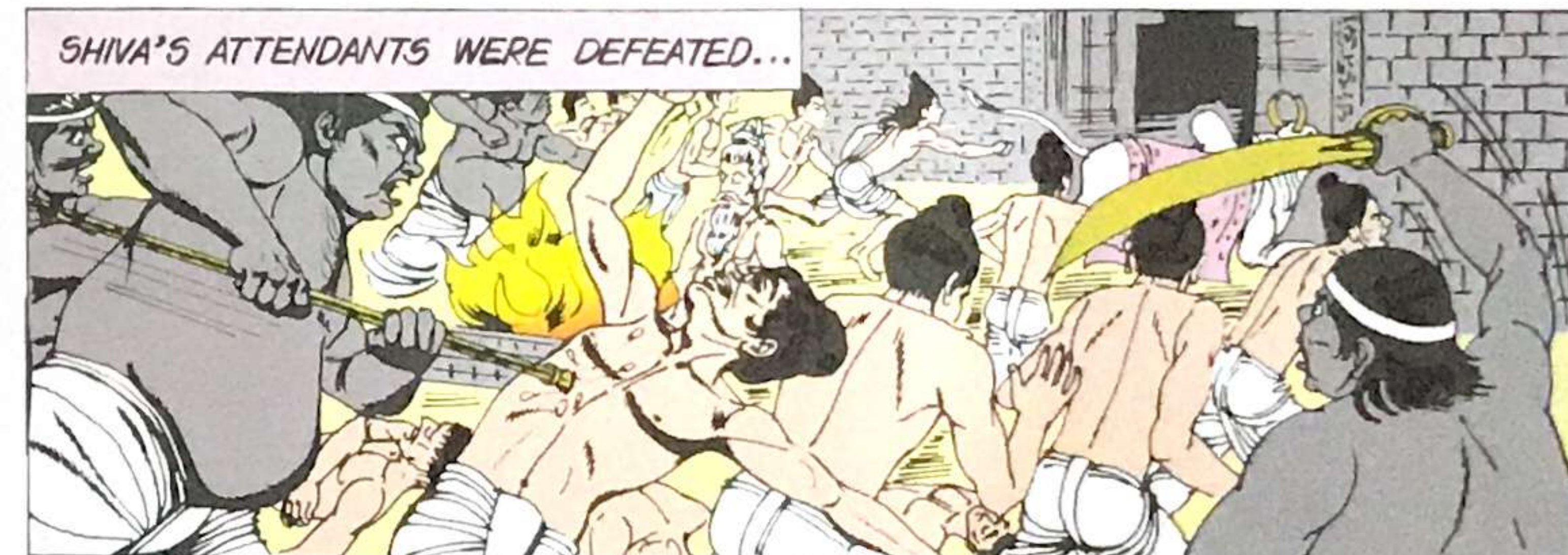
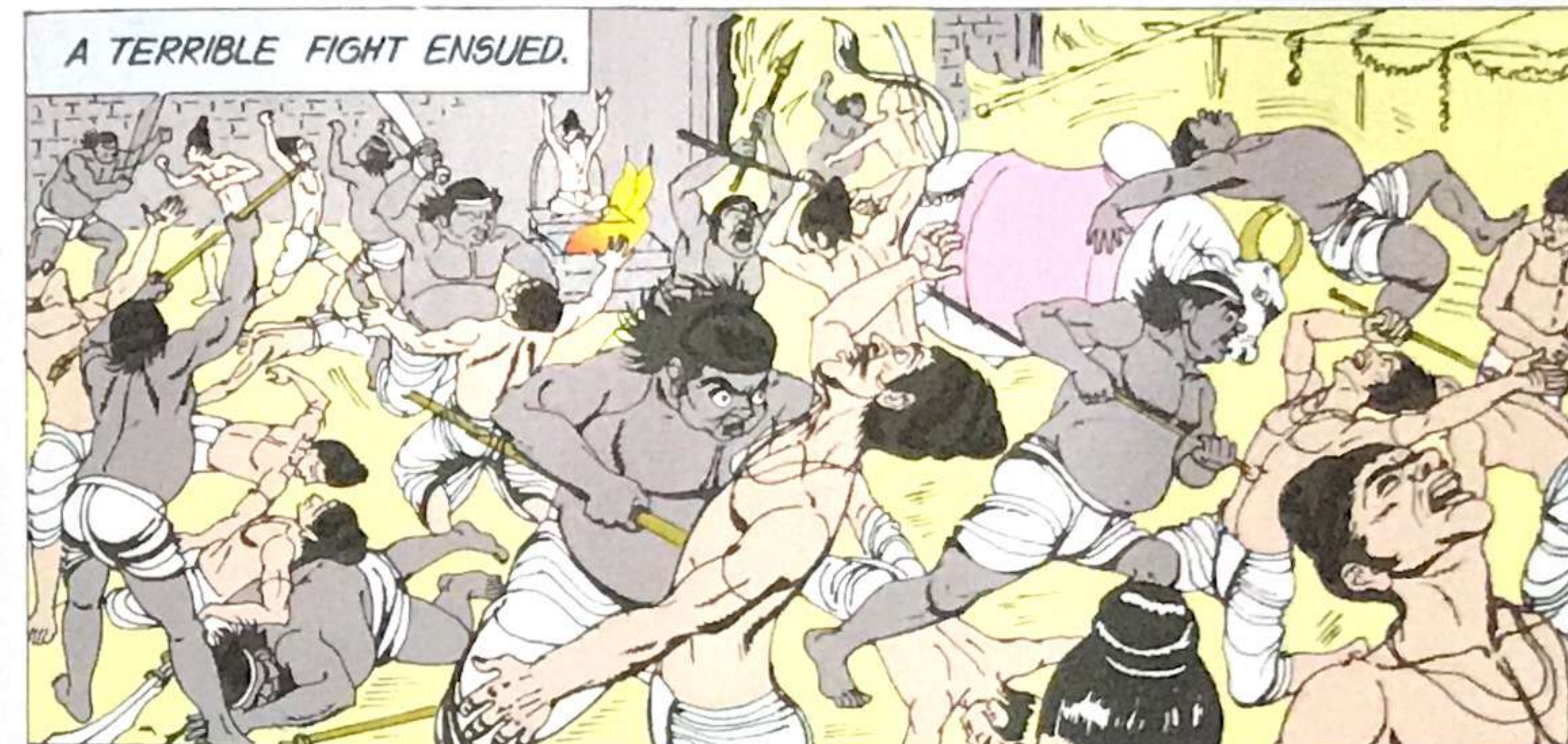
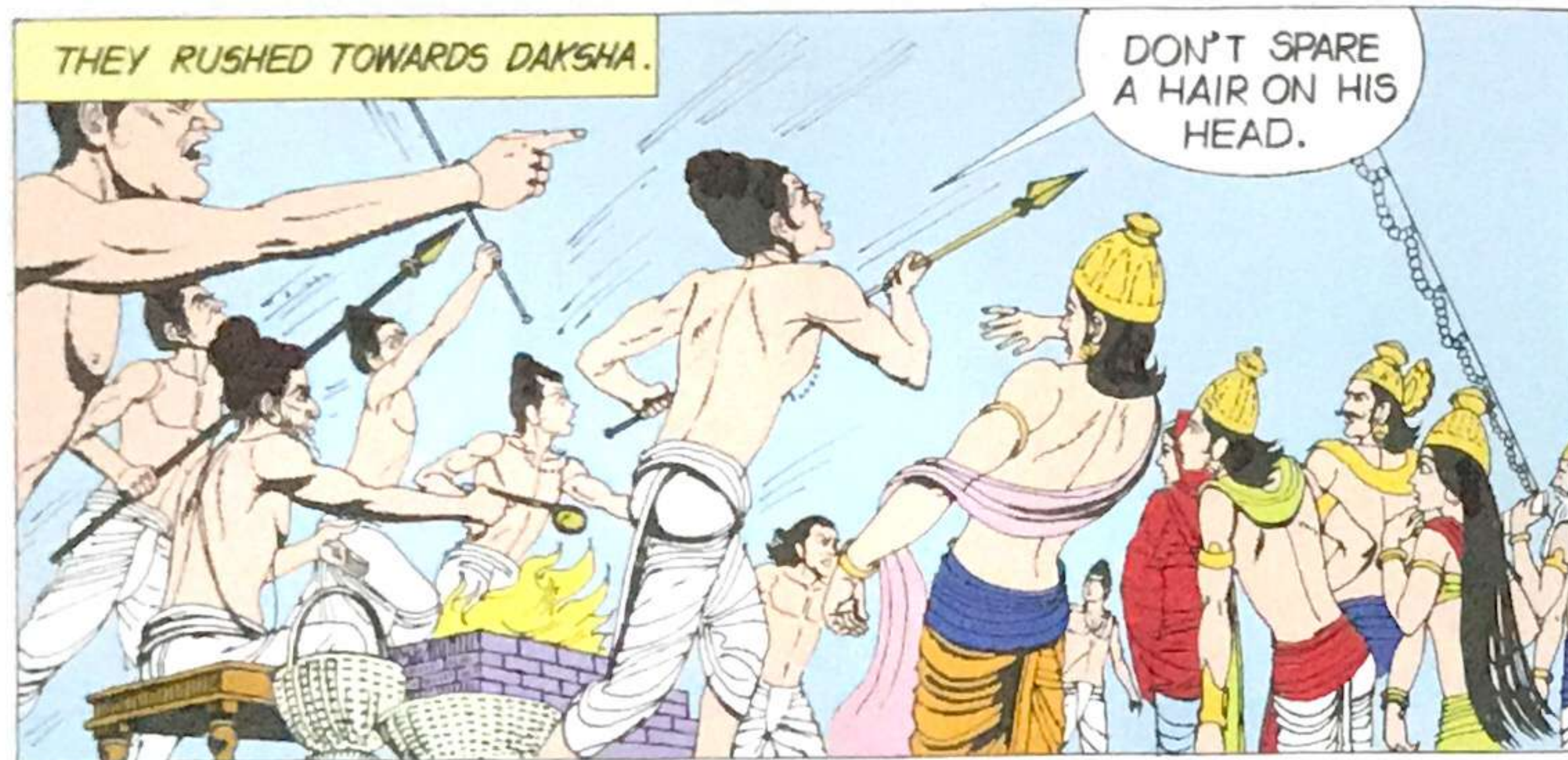
BUT DAKSHA CRUELLY CUT HER SHORT.



HIS ANGER MOUNTED AS HE SPOKE OF SHIVA.





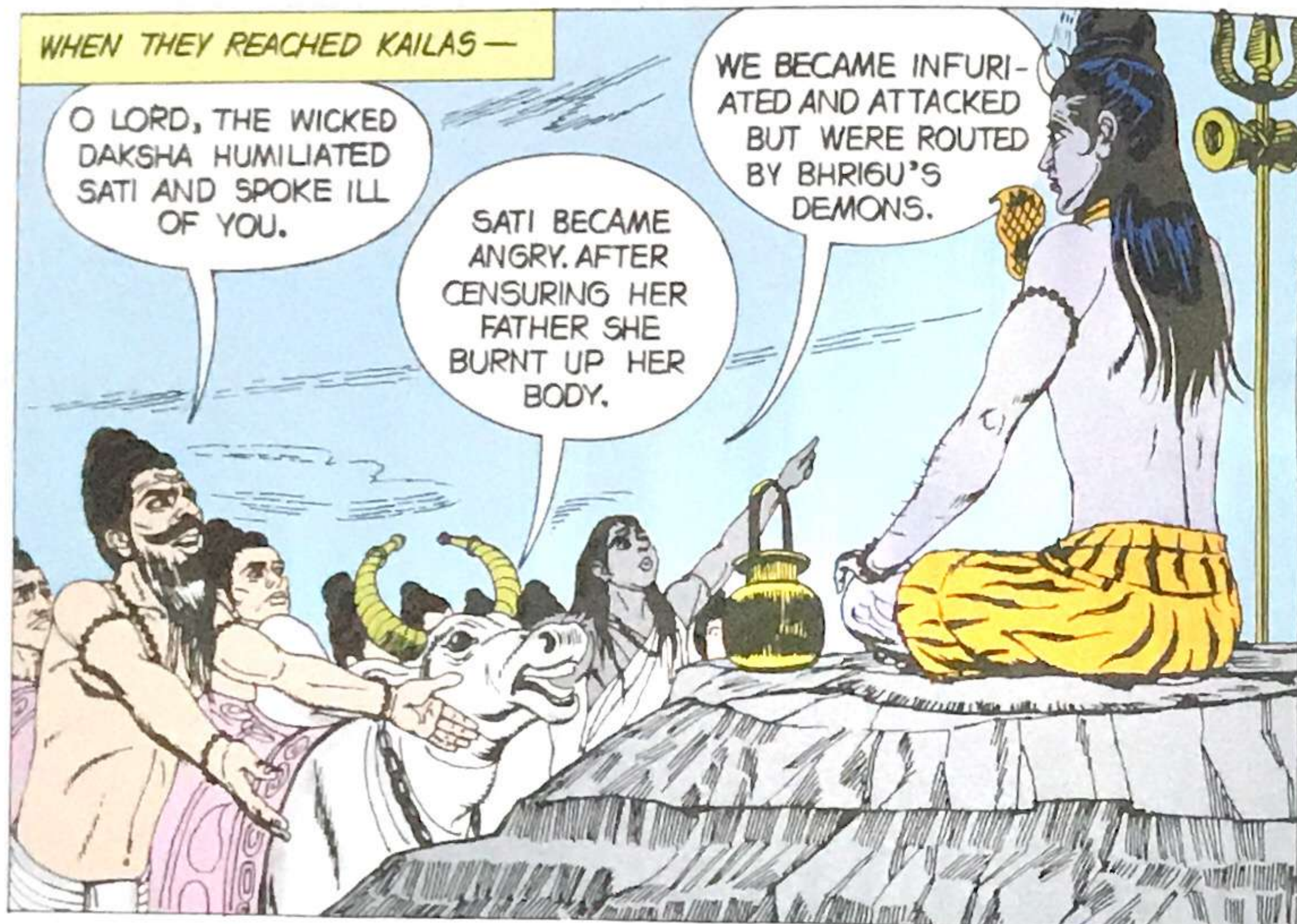


WHEN THEY REACHED KAILAS —

O LORD, THE WICKED DAKSHA HUMILIATED SATI AND SPOKE ILL OF YOU.

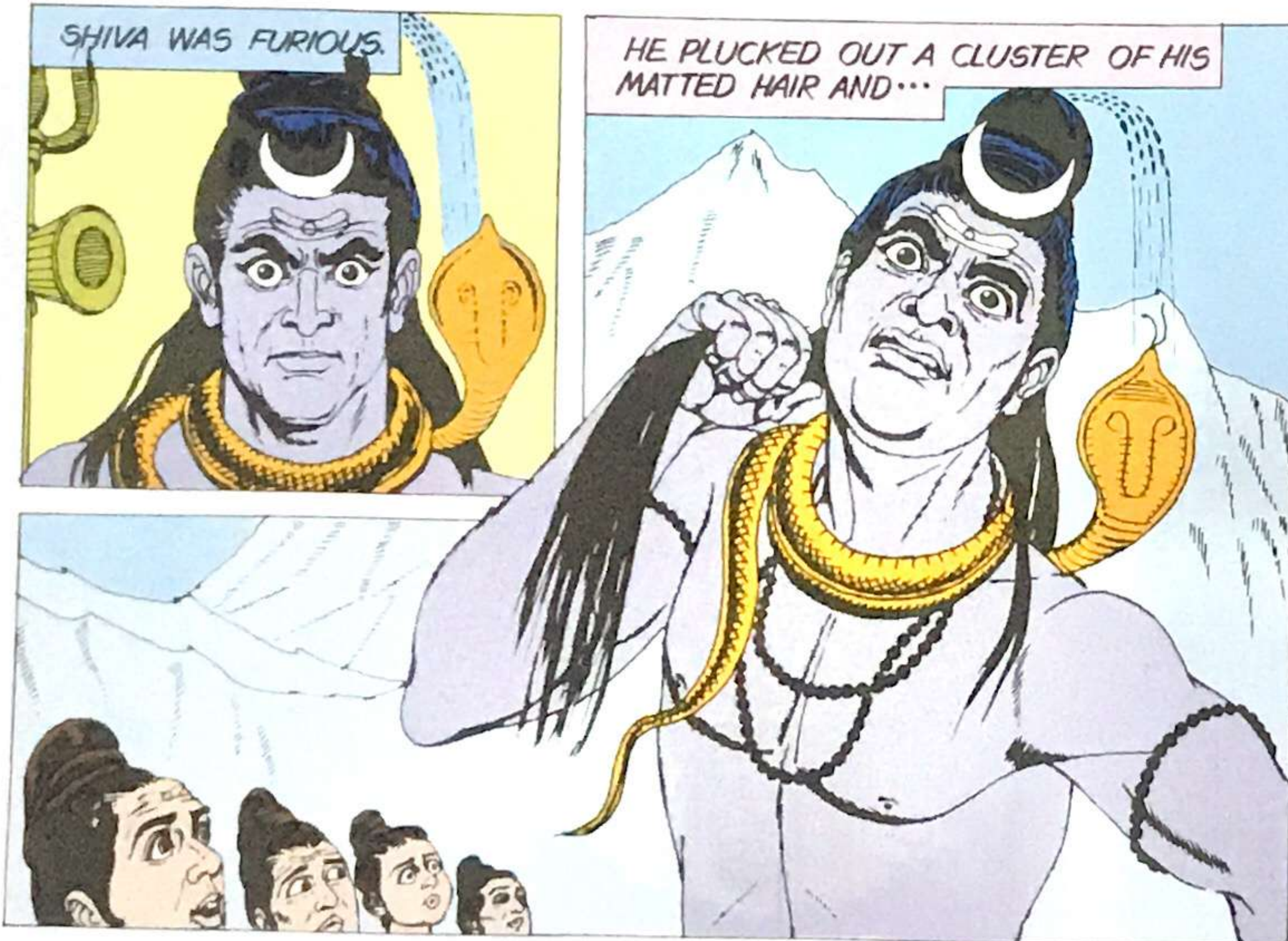
SATI BECAME ANGRY. AFTER CENSURING HER FATHER SHE BURNT UP HER BODY.

WE BECAME INFURI-ATED AND ATTACKED BUT WERE ROUTED BY BHRIGU'S DEMONS.



SHIVA WAS FURIOUS.

HE PLUCKED OUT A CLUSTER OF HIS MATTED HAIR AND...



...DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.



THE CLUSTER SPLIT IN TWO.



FROM ONE HALF AROSE THE POWERFUL VIRABHADRA AND...



...FROM THE OTHER THE TERRIBLE MAHAKALI.



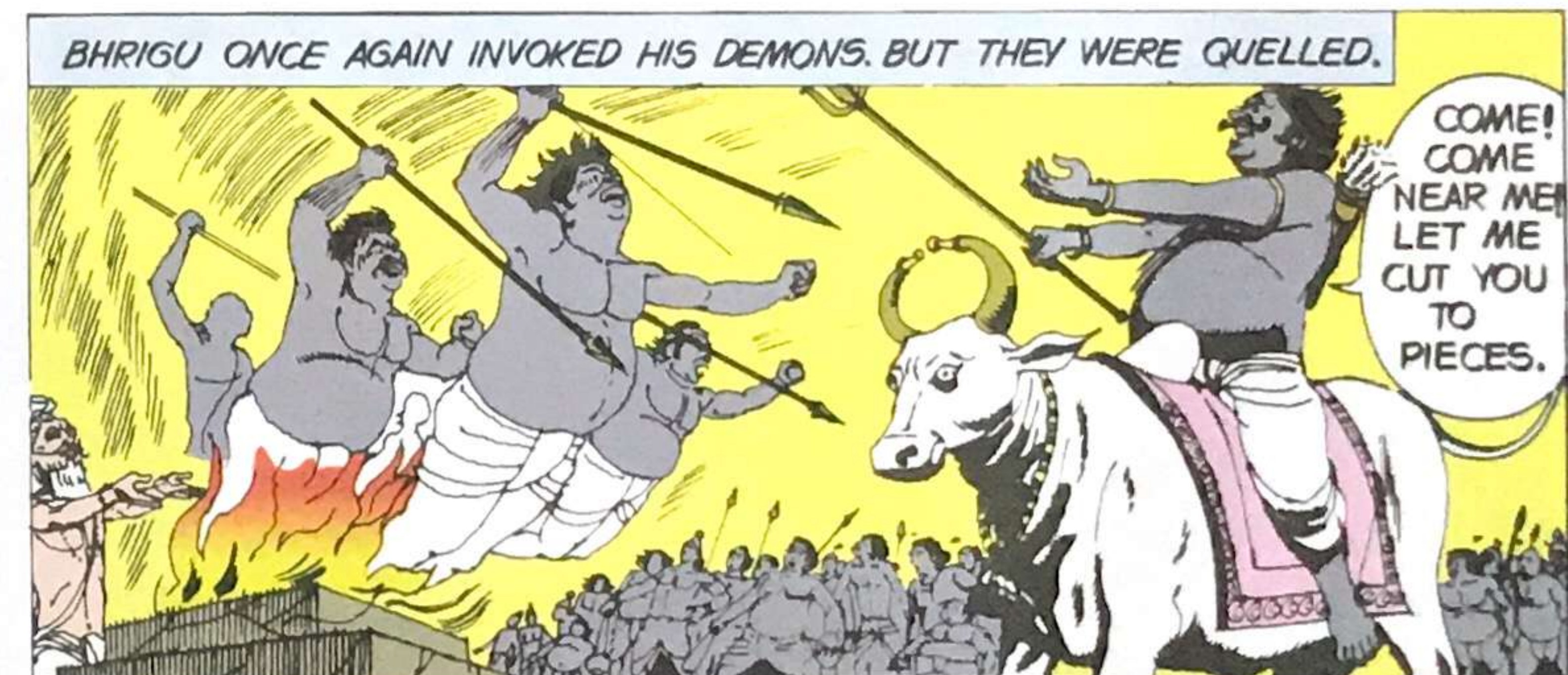
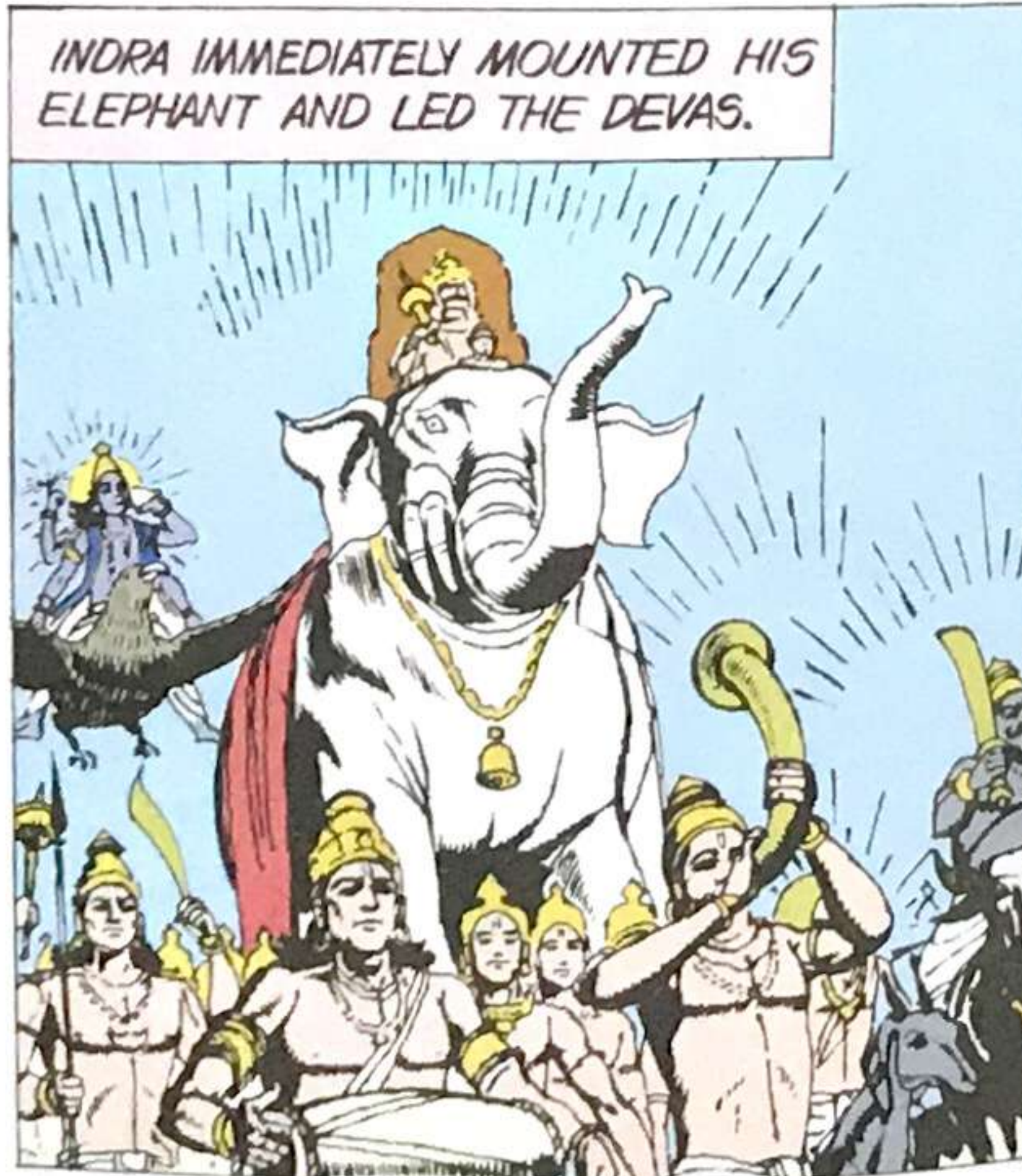
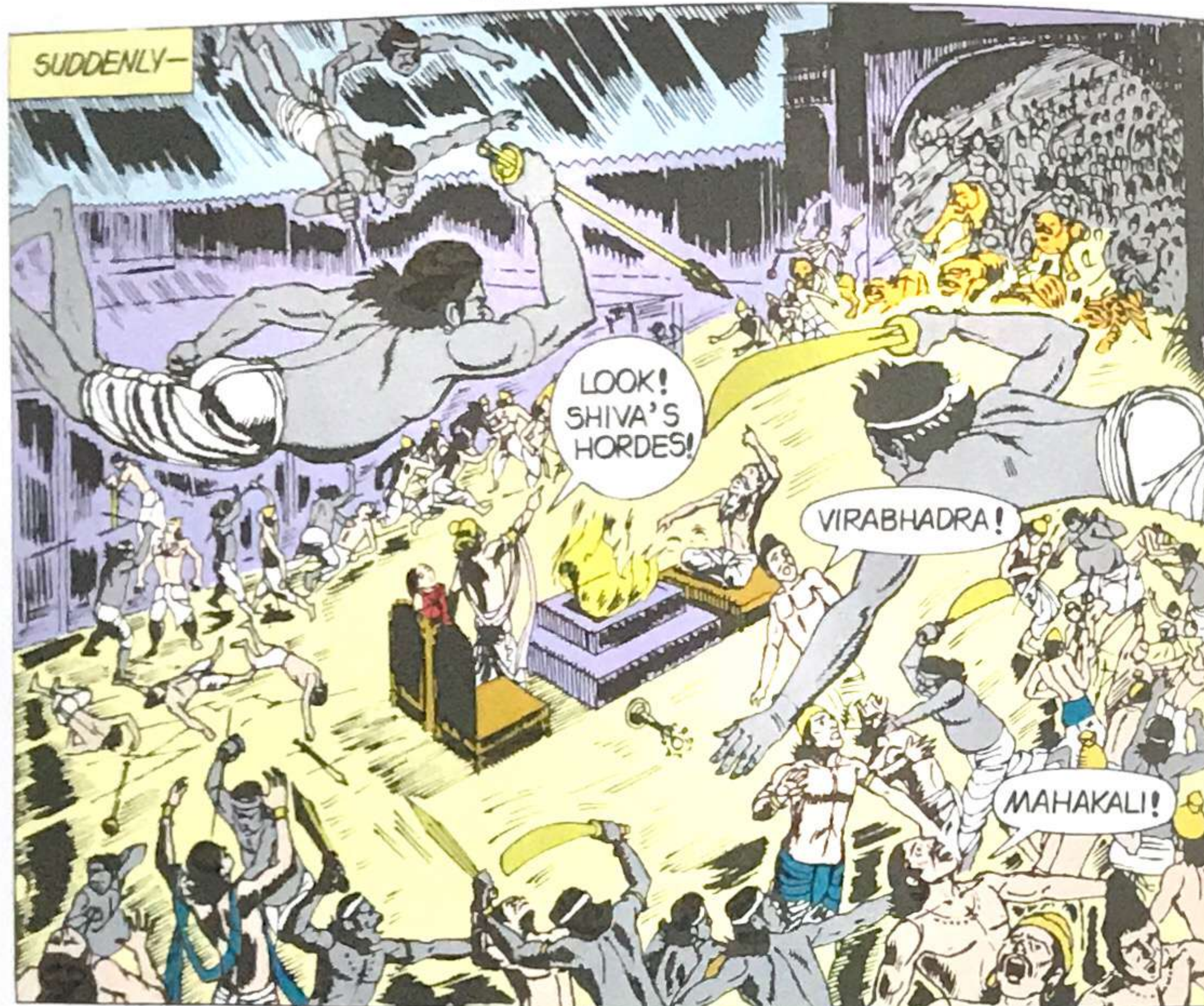


EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE COMMAND, VIRABHADRA SET OFF AT ONCE FOR DAKSHA'S ABODE WITH MAHAKALI LEADING THE HORDES.



WHILE VIRABHADRA ADVANCED, A NUMBER OF BAD OMENS WERE SEEN BY DAKSHA AND HIS GUESTS. A CELESTIAL VOICE CURSED DAKSHA.

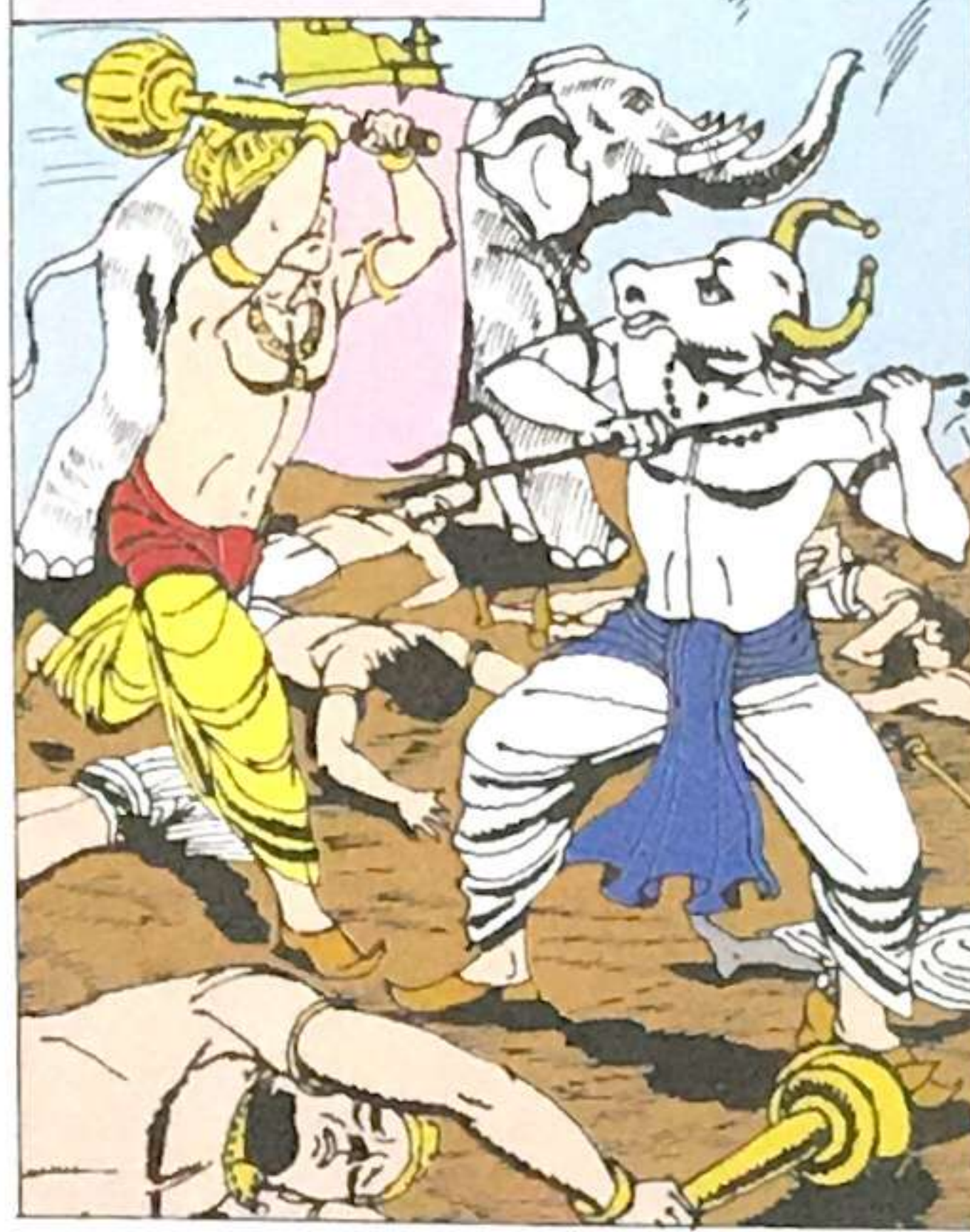




MANY OF THE DEVAS AND CELESTIAL SAGES DESERTED AND FLED TO HEAVEN.



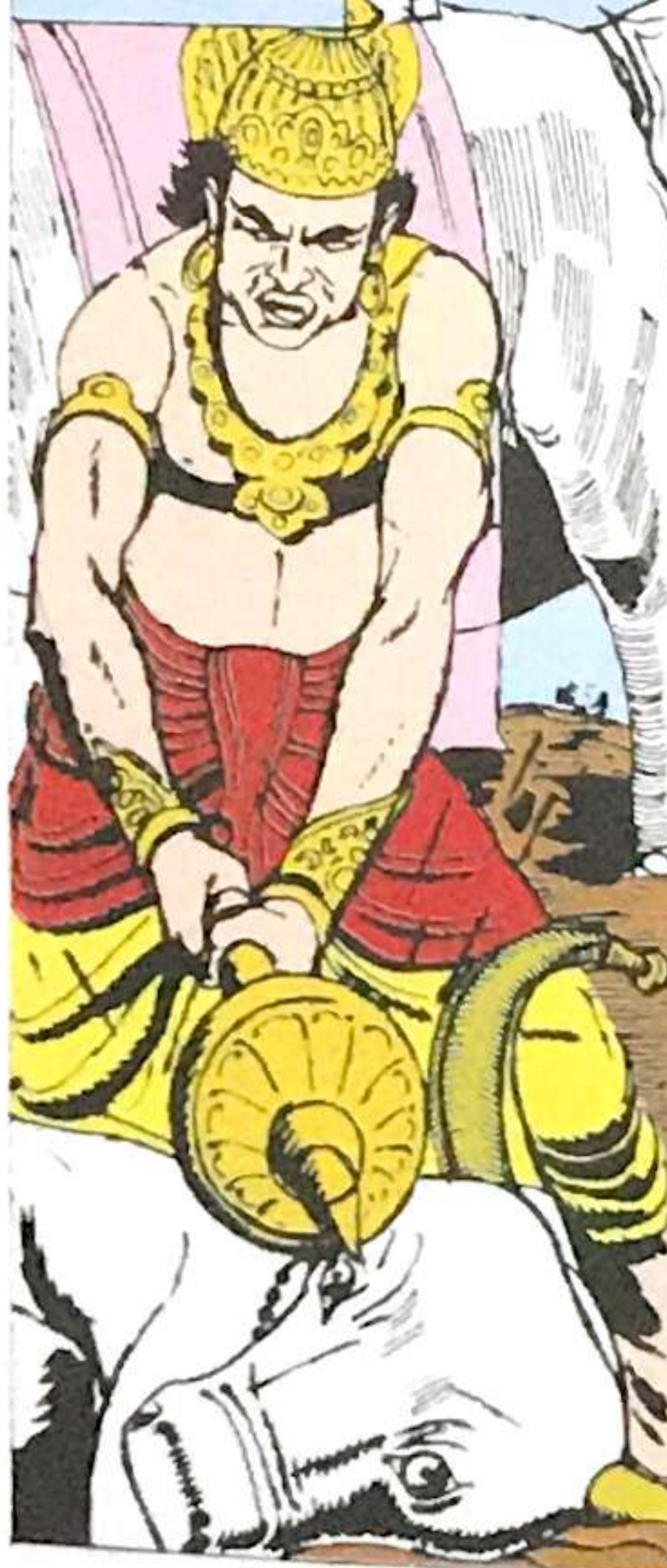
BUT INDRA DID NOT GIVE UP. HE ATTACKED NANDI.



NANDI PIERCED HIM WITH HIS TRIDENT.



INDRA RETALIATED WITH HIS THUNDERBOLT, AND NANDI FELL.



VIRABHADRA WAS FURIOUS TO SEE SHIVA'S FAVOURITE LYING UNCONSCIOUS.



HE DREW HIS BOW AND LET FLY HIS DEADLY ARROWS.



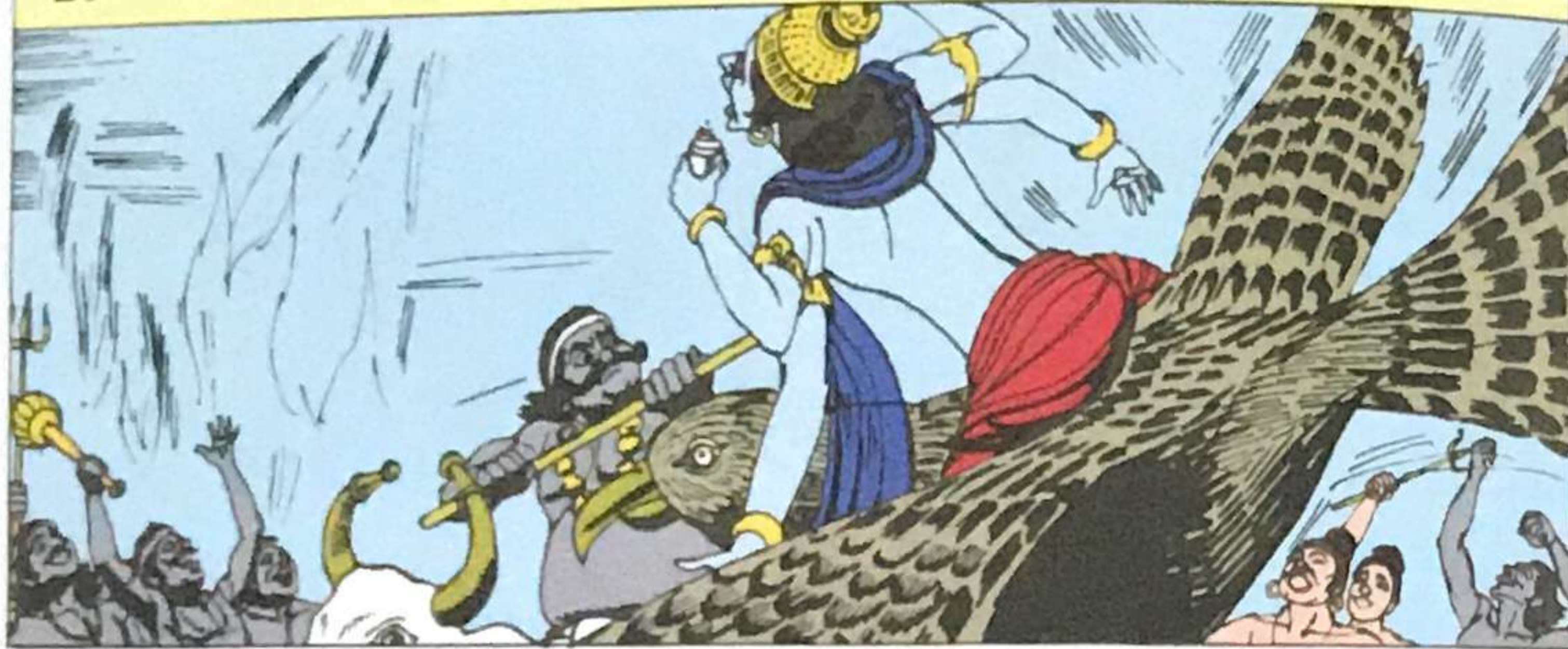
SEVERELY WOUNDED, EVEN INDRA HAD TO FLEE.



THEN VISHNU CAME FORWARD, TOOK INDRA'S POSITION AND FACED VIRABHADRA.



BUT VIRABHADRA CHARGED WITH HIS TRIDENT AND VISHNU FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



LEAVING HIM THERE, VIRABHADRA WENT IN SEARCH OF DAKSHA.



HE TORE OFF DAKSHA'S HEAD AND...



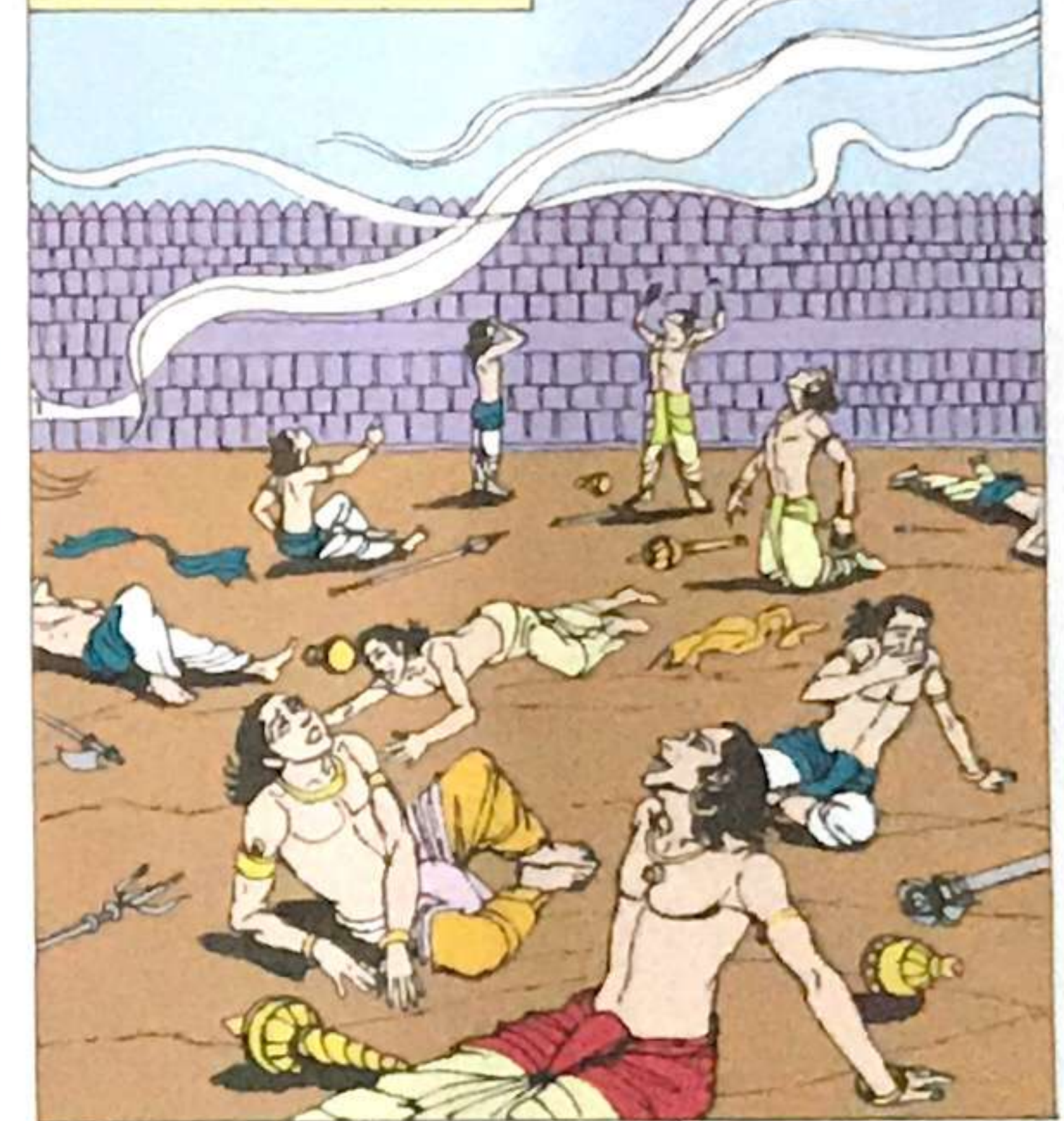
...THREW IT INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



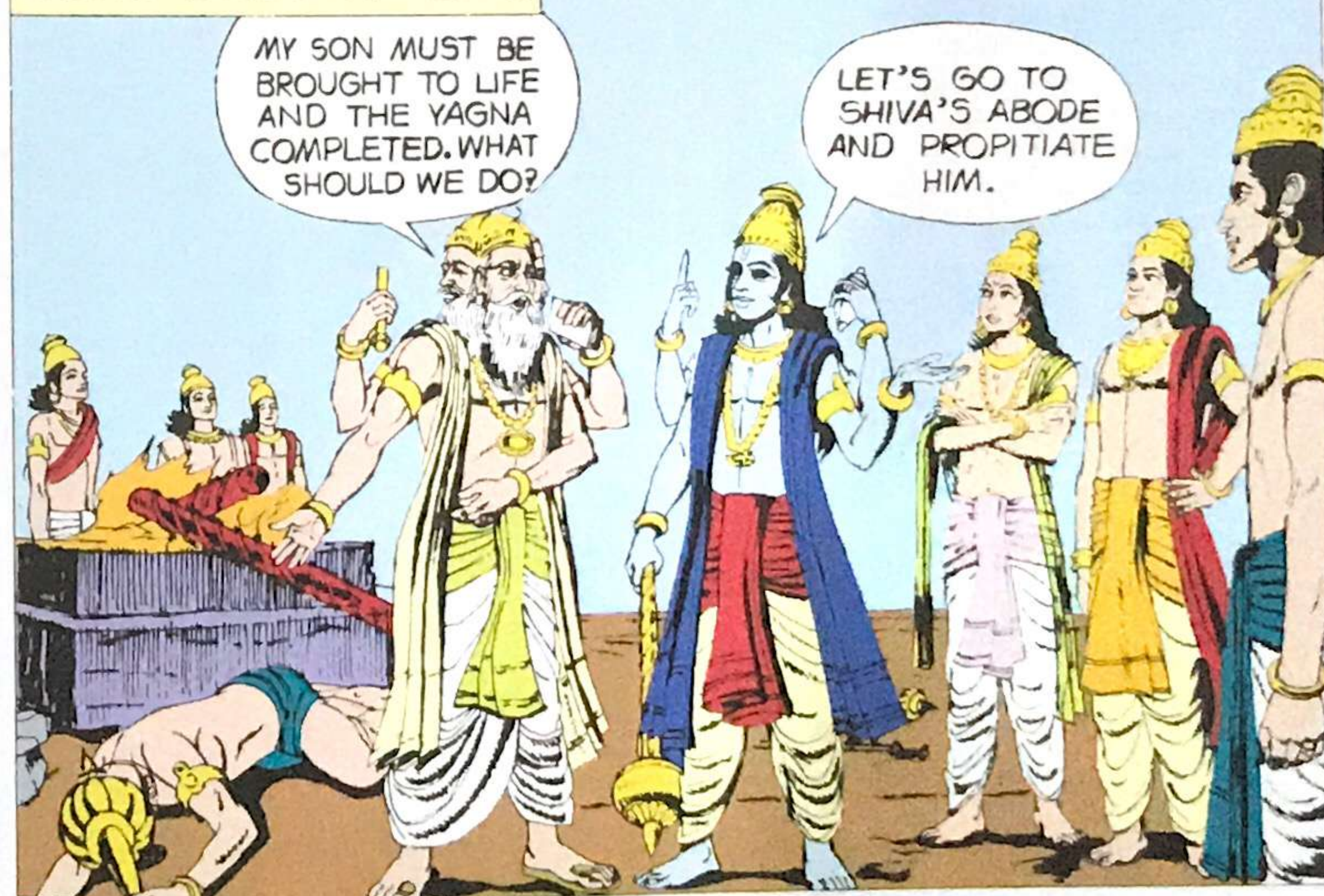
HIS TASK ACCOMPLISHED, HE RETURNED TO KAILAS.



AS VIRABHADRA LEFT, COOL FRAGRANT BREEZES BLEW, REVIVING ALL THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN.



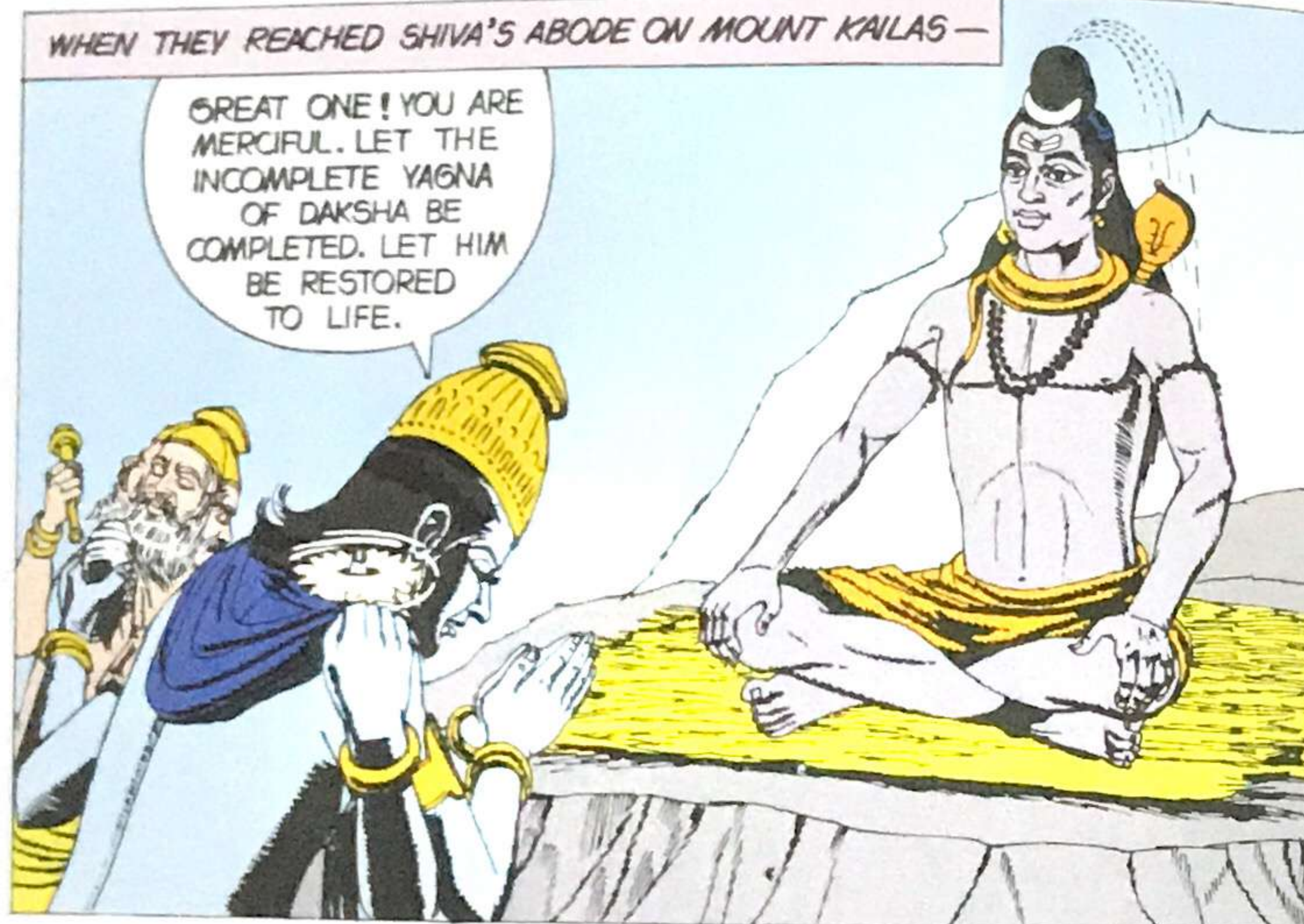
BRAHMA CAME UP TO VISHNU.



MY SON MUST BE BROUGHT TO LIFE AND THE YAGNA COMPLETED. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

LET'S GO TO SHIVA'S ABODE AND PROPITIATE HIM.

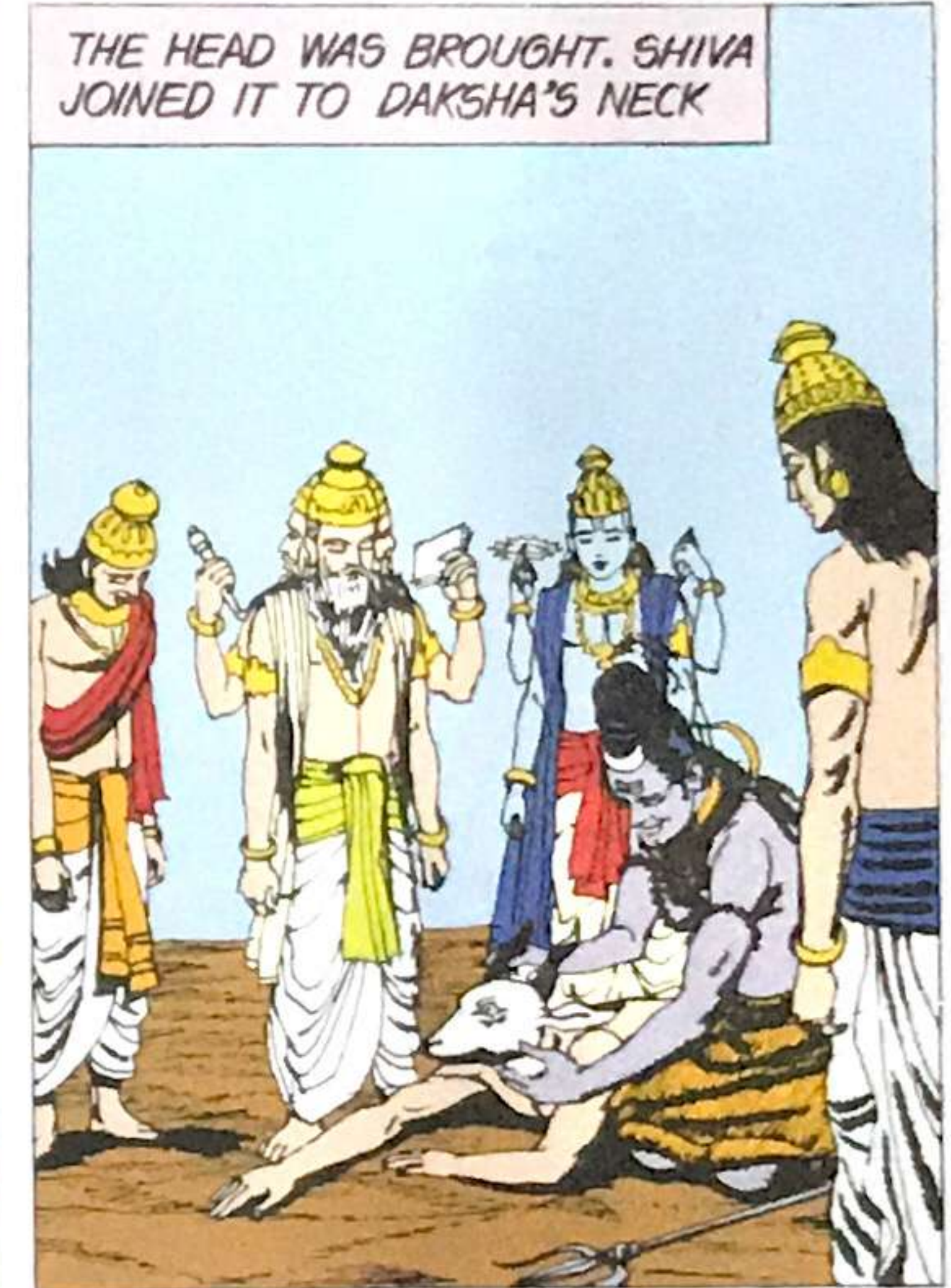
WHEN THEY REACHED SHIVA'S ABODE ON MOUNT KAILAS —



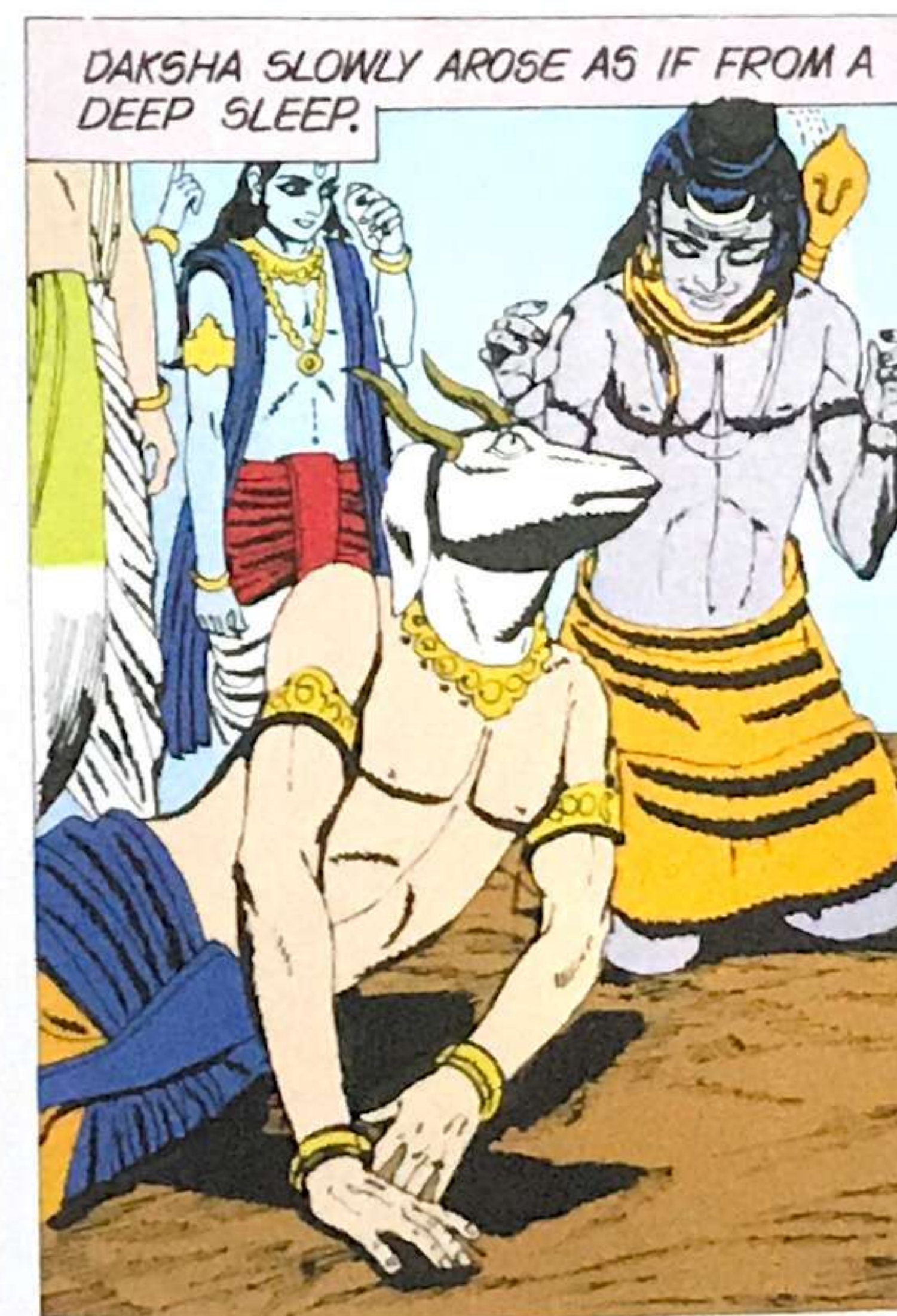
WHEN THEY REACHED THE VENUE OF THE SACRIFICE —



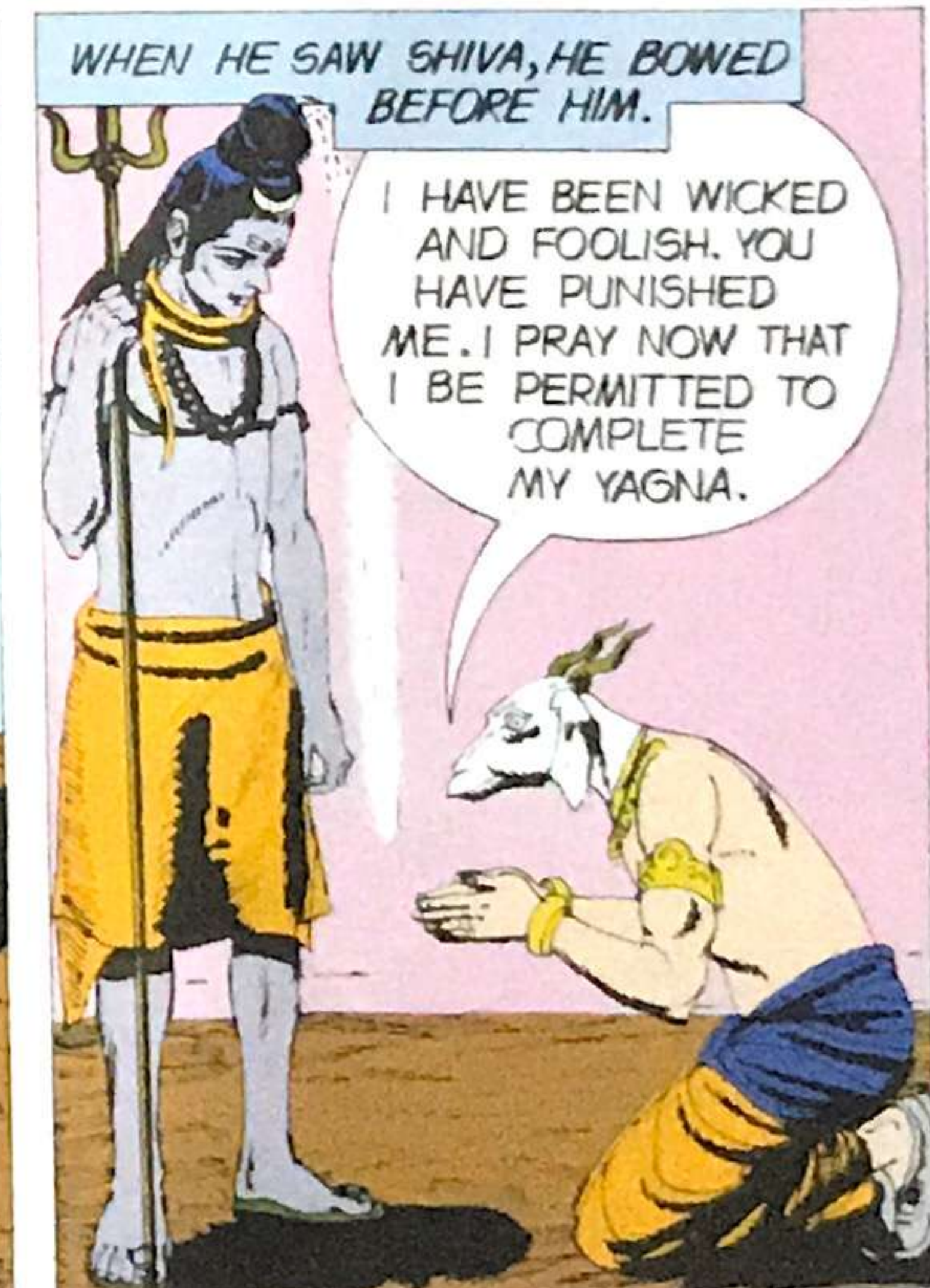
THE HEAD WAS BROUGHT. SHIVA JOINED IT TO DAKSHA'S NECK



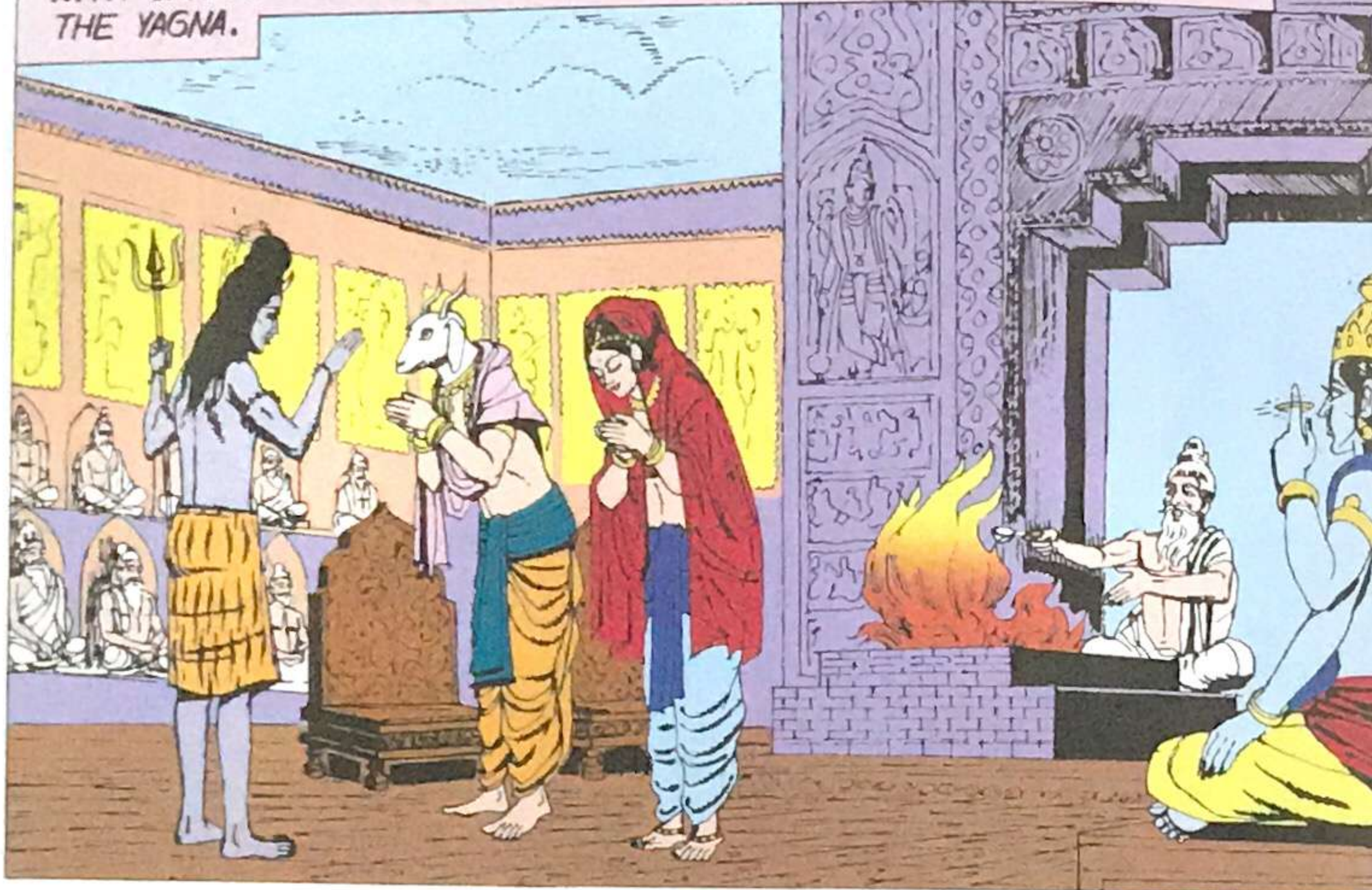
DAKSHA SLOWLY AROSE AS IF FROM A DEEP SLEEP.



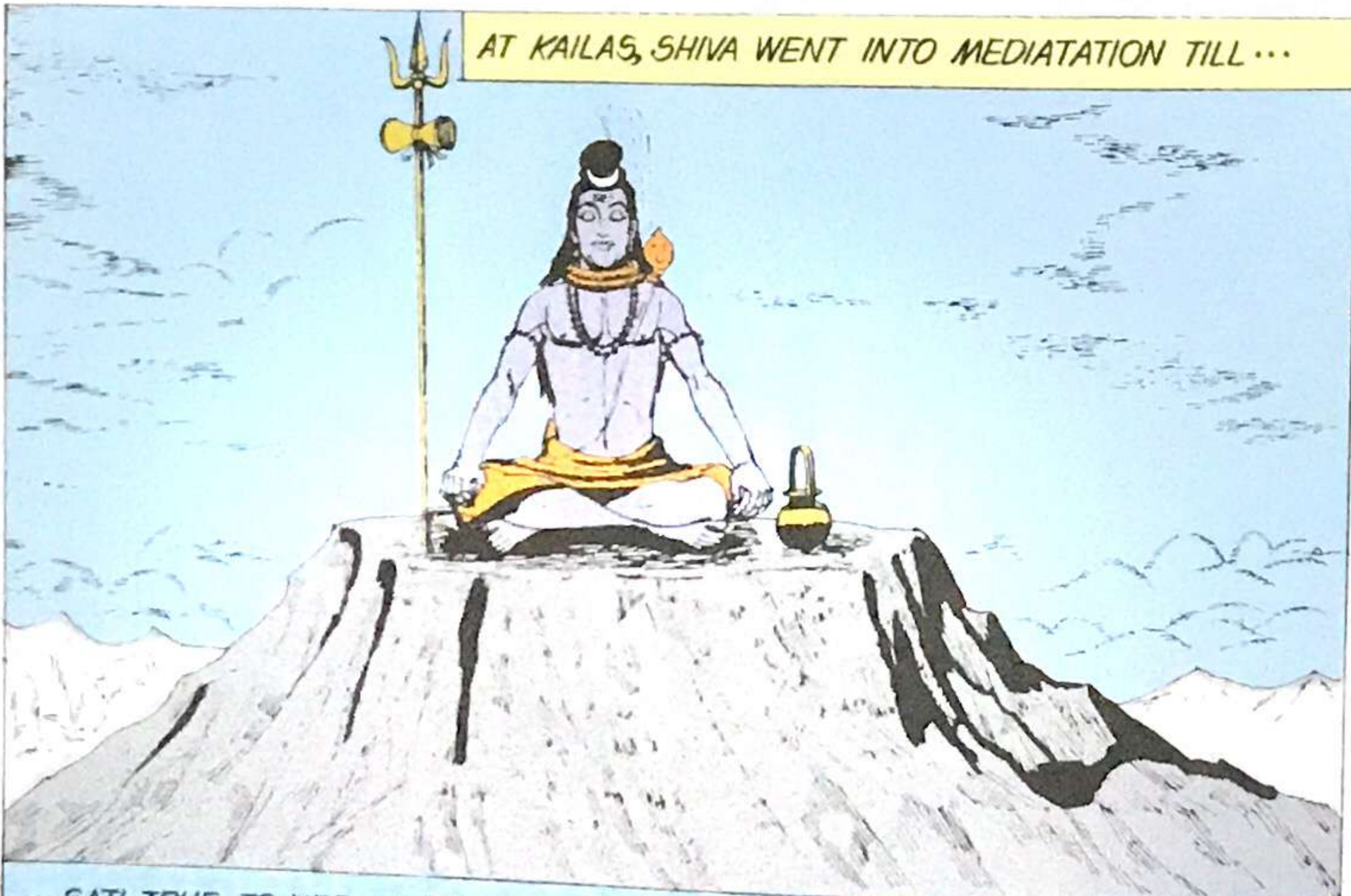
WHEN HE SAW SHIVA, HE BOWED BEFORE HIM.



WITH SHIVA'S PERMISSION AND GRACIOUS BLESSINGS, DAKSHA COMPLETED THE YAGNA.



AT KAILAS, SHIVA WENT INTO MEDITATION TILL ...



...SATI, TRUE TO HER WORD, WAS REBORN AS PARVATI TO HIMAVAN, A FATHER SHE COULD LOVE AND RESPECT AND WHO LOVED AND RESPECTED HER. AND AS PARVATI SHE WOODED AND WON SHIVA, NEVER TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM AGAIN.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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